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Meridian Illustrated

1904

MERIDIAN ILLUSTRATED

1904

A comprehensive Picture of the Metropolis of Mississippi in its Historical, Civic, Social, Industrial and Commercial Aspects : : :

BY

WM. F. GRAY

(Late Editor Meridian Daily News.)

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

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MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

A Modern and Progressive City of the South Where Conservatism, Quickened by Enterprise, has Produced Ideal Economic and Social Conditions.

Meridian, Mississippi, is a typical product of the economic readjustment that has come to the South during the past quarter of a century; it is distinctly post bellum; built upon modern plans, and owes its growth and development entirely to the dominance of the modern and progressive spirit which, happily, has begun to manifest itself in nearly every Southern community in recent years, but which was a rare influence when Meridian became infected with it, and set the pace for Mississippi, more than twenty-five years ago.

From its early settlement Mississippi has been distinguished pre-eminently as an agricultural State; her rich soil, mild climate and equable seasons encouraged the vocation of the farmer and abundantly rewarded his industry; there was no temptation to exploit other fields so long as adequate and satisfactory returns came from this; and town building did not, to our fathers, seem to be an inviting field for endeavor; the soil yielded them a liberal income and the urban idea found no place in their ideals and aspirations. The town was a good enough place for those who could not live in the country, and was, doubtless, a wise provision designed for the farmer's convenience, whereby he might be served with postal facilities, newspapers, law and markets; but beyond this, the average Mississippian considered city building the most inconsequential of occupations.

Among all peoples vocation gives tone and tenor to the mind and shapes character accordingly; the agricultural influence imparted to the men and women of the State a temper and disposition signalized by all of the virtues and graces that belong to a free and generous life; but did not strengthen the gregarious aptitudes or reveal the possibilities of a united effort for the common good. The sense of mutual and reciprocal dependence was not nourished by the plantation life; self-reliance was a conspicuous characteristic of the times and a strong individuality a distinguishing trait of both men and women.

Such were the dominant social and ethical influences that prevailed when Meridian began to emerge from the chrysalis condition of villagehood and yield opportunity for the exercise of new energies in the pursuit of new purposes and new aspirations. The commercial and industrial opportunity here afforded was perceived by men of intelligence and foresight, and they brought diligence, faith and courage to their cultivation. These spirits were the pioneer city-builders of Mississippi; and to their successful endeavor is due, very largely, the dissemination of the progressive spirit that marks scores of ambitious towns today.

HISTORICAL.

Meridian began to assume identity with the advent of the M. & O. R. R. in 1855: a station was created here and a small depot erected and called Sowashee, after the creek of that name that traverses a part of the present southern boundary of the city. The lands upon which the city is now built were owned in separate tracts by Louis A. Ragsdale, Jno. T. Ball and Richard McLemore. Between the two former land owners great rivalry existed as to the location of the possible town that would follow the coming of the railroad; each being anxious that his lands would be found the more available for the site. A year or two later the Vicksburg & Meridian R. R. was being built and sought connection with the M. & O. Enterprise, a town fifteen miles south of Meridian, was looked upon as the probable terminus of the new railroad, when Louis A. Ragsdale and Jno. T. Ball, recognizing the advantages that would accrue from making

this a junction point, offered inducements and brought influences to bear that secured to Sowashee the terminus of the line. Then it was thought desirable to find another and more euphoneous name for the prospective town. Ragsdale desired to perpetuate his memory in the nameof Ragsdale City, this was combatted by Ball, who had previously, in 1854, secured the establishment of a post office here under the name of Meridian, which was promptly adopted by the railroads to supercede Sowashee.

The junction of the railroads at this point, however, did not at once, create a boom; and in 1859 there were not more than fifteen families resident in the village. A general store, operated by L. Ottenstien, on the present site of A. J. Lyon & Co.'s wholesale house, Ball's store, located on what is now the corner of 7th street and 26th avenue. a bar-room, run by one Bishop, constituted the commercial equipment of the embryonic city. But hope and faith in the future were in the ascendant, and a newspaper was started by Wm. L. Spinks, to nourish and foster these important factors in city building. Mr. A. W. Malone, the only present day citizen of Meridian, excepting Mr. A. H. Ball, who lived here in 1859, was the local reporter of this paper, which was issued weekly and called "The Meridian."

Soon after the junction of the V. & M. with the M. & O., the A. G. S. was projected and construction begun which, before many miles were completed, was interrupted by the war between the States. And now the little village began to realize the importance that attached to its location as a strategetical point; it was made a depot of supplies and base of operations for the Confederate army and, in consequence, rapidly gained in business and population, until the advent of Sherman's army in 1863, when it fell a victim to the torch that everywhere illumined the wake of that invading host.

The town was incorporated by an act of the Legislature in 1860, under the name of Meridian. Dr. J. H. Gibbs was the first mayor, while I. S. O. G. Greer, Jno. T. Ball, W. J. Berry, M. Massengale and John Armstrong constituted the first board of aldermen.

Following the war, the opportunities here afforded for the establishment of a town gained immediate recognition on the part of those who had noted the promising blossom that the havoc of war had destroyed. Hon. E. H. Dial, for ten years Mayor of the city, and who has lived through the scenes that he depicts, in 1882, published a historical sketch of the city and this picture of the post bellum era, up to 1880, is taken from that interesting work :

"After the war had closed, the same causes were at work upon the public mind that had made Meridian a town in the first place; people from all directions commenced centering here to repair their broken fortunes, and in a short time a new town was rapidly springing from the ashes into which Sherman had laid the old. The rich pine forests round about were drawn upon heavily for lumber, saw mills were established on all sides of town, and with this bountiful supply of timber and mills the demand for building materials could scarcely be met. All the business houses and residences first erected were frame buildings, mere shells, of the plainest and cheapest designs. As in the early history of all towns, communities, or countries, all ideas of the beautiful were forced to give way to the pressing necessities of the useful, the former receiving but little or no consideration at the hands of the rapidly increasing population

During the first few years of this new growth after the war, it seemed as if the business portion of the town was making a struggle to grow along Lee street up in the direction of the hill just beyond the Catholic church, where the residence of Hon. E. Watkins now stands, and where Mr. John T. Ball at that time had a large two-story frame storehouse, in which he carried on a mercantile business. There were stores on Front street from about the corner of Front and Rhodes streets down to the Sturges corner, and from this corner up Lee street to High street, where now stands the two-story brick residence occupied by Mr. Poole. Some of the largest dry goods and confectionery establishments, a large furniture store, Reed's drug store, the office of Colonel Horn's Mississippi Messenger, the Mayor's office, theatre and two hotels, exclusive of lotteries, saloons, livery stable, and other smaller establishments were on Lee street. This was the street where the ladies of the town were to be seen shopping principally, a thoroughfare at times crowded until it seemed almost impassable. Sidney street, from Lee to Johnson, was also prominent. Most of the first-class public entertainments were held in 'Concert Hall,' over Mr. Ball's store, just beyond the present site of the Catholic church and convent. In those days Johnson and Commerce streets had but few stores on them; in fact there were but few signs that a street was intended to be where Commerce now is, and on Front, in the block between Rhodes and Hale, there was for a long time only one store, and that one a frame building on the site of Marks, Lichenstein & Co.'s present grocery store. Mr. Ball's big white store up on the hill, as it looked from its prominence down upon the town coming at a rapid pace up in its direction, seemed to beckon the spirit of improvement onward in its progress, and bid it Godspeed in the course it had taken; but after the great destructive fire of 1868, which swept away the block on which the

great Phœnix Hotel was afterwards built, including the principal houses on Lee street, the town never seemed to look in that direction again, but began to build up on Commerce, Johnson, Rhodes, the upper end of Front, and Hale, especially so after the removal of the railroad passenger depots from the foot of Lee street to their present site at the foot of Hale. Really it seemed that the railroad is the magnet that moves Meridian and draws it in whatsoever direction it wills.

During the period about which we are now writing, from the close of the war until about 1873, Meridian was an enigma to all mankind, a surprise to all the outside world. A stranger being a day or two in town, leaving and coming back again in a year afterwards would scarcely recognize it as the same place. It would grow out of one's knowledge within a twelve month's time. The more it was burned down the faster it would grow. The fire burning down a shanty was in many instances but the forerunner of an edifice on the spot of more stately proportions. The energy and vim of the people could not be subdued, nor their confidence in the future of the town be weakened, by this devouring element. From an early hour every morning until night, the clatter of the mechanic's hammer and the sound of his saw were to be heard in all parts of the town; these noises and the ring of the brickmason's trowel, the popping of the wagoner's whip, and all the sounds incident to building formed a part of the life of the young city. These years were the era of Meridian's mushroom growth."

Another interesting chapter in Mr. Dial's history of Meridian is his reference to the rivalry that used to exist between Meridian and her then very formidable competitor, Marion, and their exciting contests as to which place the courthouse had best be given. At that time Marion, Meridian's rival town, was honored with the courthouse. Mr. Dial tells the story of Meridian's success in his own inimitable way :

"To those who did not know Meridian in her younger days, but who know her only as she now is, it may sound a little queer, if not altogether absurd, to hear the statement that during her ante-riot days she was making such rapid strides in her growth and enjoying her unparalleled boom, Marion Station, six miles distant, was looking on with a jealous eye. Up to 1870, Marion contended that she was larger than Meridian, and that Meridian, who ought really to be in its swaddling clothes, had prematurely gotten into pantaloons and was even getting too big for them. The fact is, Meridian's far-reaching ambition had aroused Marion's envy and supreme indignation; for Meridian was reaching after and trying to pluck the feather from Marion's cap. Old Marion from the organization of county had been, not only the county site, but the hub of all this section of the universe in olden time, until New Marion robbed her of her prominence immediately after the war by reason of being a railroad station. Thus Marion Station became the capital of the county, having defeated Meridian, who in this contest was a candidate before the people against her. But Meridian still wanted to be county site. The idea that Meridian would ever be large enough to have a courthouse was hooted at by the Marion people. It was a childish whim of hers that ought not to be humored, so thought they. Meridian, however, felt as big as Marion, and would not rest contented until her wish was gratified. Accordingly, in 1870, the seat of justice was moved to this place by a vote of the people, under an act of the Legisture, from Marion Station, and the first court was held in August, 1870, by Judge Robert Leachman. The majority in Meridian's favor, however, was small. 'Sheehan's Hall,' on Johnson street, was fitted up for a courthouse and was used as such until 1880, when the present handsome courthouse was finished. Marion was once an active and thorough-going little town, but since the removal of the county site to this city twelve years ago it has gone down. It has been absorbed by Meridian, and by the absorption Meridian has acquired some of her best business men and worthiest citizens, the Marion people have all become reconciled, and all former rivalry and feeling that existed between the two towns been buried underneath the ups and downs, the happiness, prosperity, misfortunes, bereavements, gladness and tears, and crowded incidents of the past fifteen years.

In November, 1871, the city of Meridian was divided into wards. The destructive fires, and their frequent occurrence, occasioned partly by the character of the first buildings erected, all being frame buildings of pine lumber, easy to catch on fire and difficult to arrest, necessitated the establishment of a fire district, in which it was made unlawful for any one to erect wooden buildings. The fire district was established in March, 1872."

During these years of rapid growth and development, many railroads were projected, and several completed, that lent a wonderful stimulus to the commercial and industrial development of the ambitious young city. The Alabama and Great Southern was completed to Chattanooga, Tenn., where it formed connections through to Cincinnati, New York and Washington. Then in 1883 the New Orleans and Northeastern was opened up for traffic, the building of this important line being mainly due to the foresight, energy and indomitable perseverance of Capt. W. H. Hardy, who conceived the

enterprise and carried it to successful completion. A few years thereafter came the East Tennessee and Georgia linking the city with Selma, Ala., and thence, east to the Atlantic seaboard. Now the young city began to build for permanent things. The experimental stage was passed. There was no longer any room or need for the boomer; her railroad connections established, her commercial possibilities clearly apprehended and the advantages enjoyed for manufacturing enterprise being fully realized, those who now came to Meridian were not prospectors; they did not come with grips; but with all their lares and penates, to make here a habitation and a home, and were speedily enlisted in the good work of substantial, and permanent city building.

The decade from 1880 to 1890 marked a period, therefore, of more substantial if less ebulient progress. The commercial territory was expanded to embrace all the counties of Alabama and Mississippi within a radius of seventy-five or a hundred miles. The cotton receipts grew rapidly; wholesale and jobbing houses were established; banks were opened; the Queen & Crescent railroad system built its shops here; new manufacturing enterprises were undertaken and old ones enlarged; schools and churches multiplied to meet the requirements of an ever increasing population until in 1890, Meridian was second only to Vicksburg among the cities of Mississippi.

The next decade opened up new avenues of progress and development that her people were not slow to enter upon. It was a decade of municipal equipment and betterment. as well as of commercial and economic growth, scarcely interrupted, even, by the panic of 1893. A sewerage system was laid, streets were paved, side-walks were built, electric lights installed, an electric street railway was put in operation, the school system perfected, and the census of 1900 found the city only a few hundred behind Vicksburg in point of population, and in all matters of municipal equipment FACILE PRIMUS.

An important agency in this internal progress and substantial upbuilding was the Young Men's Business League, organized in 1893, which unified and made coherent and effective, all of the energies of the city for the production of substantial results. This organization was, in 1902, merged into the Board of Trade and Cotton Exchange, which has since that time continued the good work of furthering the common welfare and directing the potential forces of the city in the channels of the best development.

But before leaving this brief review of Meridian's earlier history, an example of the faith and enthusiasm that possessed the town builders of a generation ago may not be uninteresting to the present day artisans of the same craft, and will certainly demonstrate that our forbears were not deficient in the civic pride and patriotism that is the characteristic of this citizenry today.

In 1873, "The Star" was published here by Messrs. Campbell and Powell. In the issue of March 9th, of that year, we find this summing up of the Meridian of that day, and the reflex of a patriotic editorial spirit that has not yet departed from Meridian newspapers. After enumerating the various lines of railroad completed and projected at that time the editorial ardor finds vent in these fervent words:

"Meridian thus becomes the great railway center of the South—a half-way house, it may almost be called, upon the line of the great Southern Pacific route, which will connect here with the Chattanooga and Meridian and other roads.

Think of it!

Meridian, a place dating its real origin to 1866, now containing a population of 7,000, with four railways completed and FIVE others in contemplation, upon some of which the work is progressing rapidly, and all of which, will, without a doubt, be built!"

That is the faith that builds cities: that is the enthusiasm that made it possible for Meridian to achieve the distinction of being the metropolis of Mississippi today.

Meridian has never known a boom; property values have advanced and receded in keeping with financial and business conditions; but at no time has there been any extravagant inflation or ruinous depression. On the whole, growth and development have been constant, substantial and reasonable; the logical results of legitimate causes. The period of the city's best and broadest development is perhaps included in the past six years and its processes are most active and conspicuons today; in truth the cumulative efforts of past years are now bearing fruit; enterprise is more confident and faith in the city's future justified by the past experience, is immovable. We are reaping the harvest of the earlier sowing and prepating broader fields for tillage, assured that our labors will be amply repaid. We have demonstrated the possibilities here of city building and we are proceeding to realize upon this demonstration.

The foundations of the city are laid broad and deep, and their component parts are of a character that guarantee both stability and growth; material development has constantly gone hand in hand with the social upbuilding; school houses and churches have kept pace with business structures, while the homes of Meridian have always been, and are today, her people's pride and glory; they are

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POPULATION.

The population of Meridian, today, is more than 20,000; the latest city directory placing it over 23,000; and no town in the South is growing more rapidly in this respect; and what is better the accretions in population are of the most desirable element, who are drawn hither by the business and industrial opportunities, splendid educational advantages and wholesome social influences that prevail.

MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT.

The physical equipment and the municipal utilities that obtain here are all in keeping with the best modern ideals; there are few cities of 20,000 people anywhere in the South that enjoy greater advantages in this respect.

SEWERAGE.

A sewerage system, practically extending throughout the whole area of the city, was inaugurated ten years ago, and was the first improvement of this kind undertaken by any Mississippi town. The value of this sanitary equipment is realized in a health record that is not surpassed anywhere and the expenditure has been reimbursed many times over in the hygienic and sanitary economy.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS.

The principal business streets of the city are paved with vitrified brick and chert, while thirty-one miles of brick sidewalks afford a comfortable way for pedestrians from the remotest confines of the corporation. These sidewalks are scientifically laid on a substantial foundation, while a gradual slope from their outer edge to the street gutter, which is curbed with stone, affords a perfect drainage. This excellent system, which is not surpassed by any city in the South, was built by the city in 1896-97 out of the proceeds of bonds issued for the purpose, the city being reimbursed and the bonds met by annual assessments upon the abutting property where the sidewalks are laid. This method enabled the city to procure a uniform and far-reaching equipment in this respect, at a minimum cost to the property holder, payable by him in twenty annual installments.

STREET RAILWAYS AND LIGHTS.

A system of electric railways, extending from the limits of the city, north, east and west, and converging in the heart of the business district, yield quick and comfortable transit to and from every quarter of the town and contributes largely to residential expansion. This railroad is now preparing to extend its lines beyond the city limits to the suburbs on the north and east, to embrace within the city those communities that, although beyond the corporate lines, are practically a part of the city. This extension has been accomplished to the Meridian male and female colleges north of the city, thus enabling students of these excellent institutions quick and comfortable transportation to and from the schools.

The railway company has provided a pretty and well equipped resort, with a summer theatre, at North Park, where pic-nics by the children are often held and concerts and other out-door entertainments during the summer, afford delightful opportunities for recreation in the evening. The railway company furnishes the lights for the city, which are of the most approved and modern type and so placed as to give every part of the town the benefit of an all night illumination.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water works company has an extensive system, reaching all parts of the city, including the manufacturing establishments located beyond the city limits. Within the past few years, prompted by the progressive spirit that predominates in Meridian, many and costly improvements were made in this branch of our public utilities.

The water supply of the city is from a source that is absolutely pure and needs no elaboration here. The question of municipal ownership of water works was favorably determined by practically a unanimous vote, a year ago, and will doubtless shortly be put into effect, either by purchase of the existing plant or the erection of a new and independent system; but whatever the determination, an abundance of pure and wholesome water is one of the important advantages that must attach to the city's future for all time, whether artesian wells be sunk or the numerous springs that gush from the hillsides surrounding the city shall be the source whence it is drawn.

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The excellence and abundance of the subterranean water supply is demonstrated in the abundant flowing wells that have been sunk by manufacturing establishments in various localities in the city's suburbs. The shops of the N. O. & N. E. R. R., the Eagle Oil Mills, the Meridian Cotton Factory, the Ice Factory, and other large consumers, obtain their supplies from this source through wells varying in depth from 700 to 1,000 feet; and this water is not only pure and wholesome for drinking purposes, but is admirably adapted to boiler uses.

HEALTH.

The elevation of Meridian is about 500 feet above the sea level; situated in the midst of the pine woods, the location is naturally healthful, and these conditions, supplemented by strict enforcement of hygienic and sanitary laws, has made this city remarkably healthful, the death rate being less than 14 per thousand of population, while experience has demonstrated that yellow fever will not spread here. During recent epidemics in neighboring towns a few cases of the dreaded scourge have, despite the utmost vigilance, been brought into the city; but in no instance has the fever extended beyond the patient afflicted, and no death from this disease has occurred here since 1878. Meridian has proved her exemption in this respect and is recognized as, practically, out of the fever zone. The city is one of the most healthful in the United States and her splendid reputation in this regard is sedulously guarded by wise and effective sanitary regulations that every citizen feels that he is in honor bound to observe.

A board of health, consisting of three physicians, and as many lay members, elected by the municipal boards, supervises all matters pertaining to sanitation and hygiene, while the city physician is the executive health officer and directs the sanitary police in the elimination of nuisances that menace the public health. This important department of municipal administration is in capable and zealous keeping which assure a permanent salubrity and the maintainance of a high health standard. A book is kept open at the city hall where citizens are invited to register any nuisance that may come under their observation; and it is the duty of the sanitary police to consult this book every afternoon and morning for complaints or reports of nuisances that may have escaped his individual observation.

FIRE SERVICE AND INSURANCE.

The fire service and equipment of Meridian is the best and most complete in the State, which fact is recognized by the insurance companies in giving the city the benefit of a first-class rating, thus reducing the cost of insurance to the minimum that obtains in the most favored cities and towns. This tax upon property being as absolute as that fixed by State or municipality is always a matter of consideration in estimating the advantages of a city as a place of residence or for investment, and the fact that the rate prevailing here is of the lowest will not be ignored by intelligent business men.

A paid fire department is maintained under the direction of a chief whose zeal and enterprise have contributed largely to bringing the department up to the high standard of efficiency that marks it today and which assures the minimum fire insurance that obtains. The insurance laws of the State include the valued policy clause as it relates to real estate, but not to personal property.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

The government of Meridian is organized under a special charter, which provides some advantages over the general provisions for town or city government contained in the general State laws. Instead of one, there are two legislative bodies, a board of aldermen, elected separately by the several wards, and a board of councilmen voted for by the whole city; these two bodies must concur in all matters of municipal legislation, and a check is thereby provided against crude, hasty or unwise legislation. The mayor possesses the usual veto power, which there is only rare occasion to exercise, inasmuch as every matter of importance receives thorough discussion and consideration by the dual boards before it is submitted to him for approval.

The police service is under the control of a commission of citizens elected by the municipal boards, who serve without any pay, thus removing this branch of the service entirely from the influence of politics; the city marshal, or chief of police, is elected by the people, but the force under him is nominated by the commission and confirmed by the dual city boards; the result is general efficiency and a better service than usually obtains in this important department of municipal administration.

The rate of taxation for all purposes is 15½ mills; while the bonded debt of the city for all public improvements is only $375,200, notwithstanding every modern equipment for a city of a much larger population has already been provided.

The mayor, city clerk, marshal or chief of police, and members of the municipal boards are elected by the people for terms of two years; the tax-collector and treasurer are elected for four years, and are not eligible to re-election to succeed themselves. The assessor and street commissioner are chosen by the city boards in joint session, as are also the school trustees, board of health, city physician and chief of the fire department.

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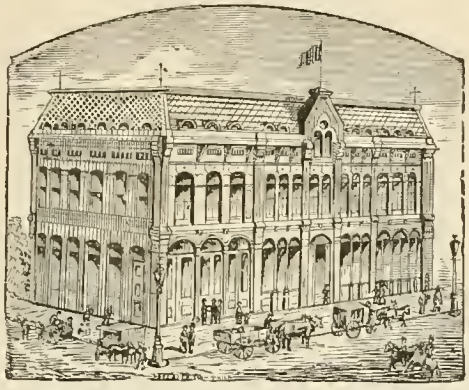

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A poll or street tax of three dollars annually is exacted of all male citizens and the payment of this, as all other taxes, is made a prerequisite to the enjoyment of the suffrage. This suffrage qualification is required in primary as well as general elections, and operates as a wholesome restriction upon the franchise, eliminating the shiftless, irresponsible and worthless voter from the election of public officials.

The market house is the property of the city and under the direct supervision of the health department; all food stuffs there sold being subject to the inspection of the health officer. The stalls are rented and yield a handsome revenue to the city treasury.

The people of Meridian find a generous satisfaction in their splendid educational facilities and accomplishment, and loyally hold up the hands of those engaged in this noble work in behalf of the new generation.

The public school system is supplemented by a male college and a female college, both under the presidency of Prof. J. W. Beeson, and an ideal school for girls and young ladies in the Moffat-McLaurin Institute, a Catholic convent for young ladies and a boys' school operated by the Christian Brothers.

The rate of taxation for educational purposes is 2½ mills, and the schools are administered by a board of trustees elected by the municipal boards.

CITY HALL.

EDUCATIONAL.

The public schools of Meridian are the pride of her people and the objects of their unremitting interest and concern; nowhere is the institution of public instruction held in higher esteem than here, and nowhere has it reached a better development. The graded system obtains, and handsome, well-equipped school buildings are located in the north, east, south and west, easily accessible to children in every part of town, with a high school, centrally located, where the advanced pupils complete their course, finishes this ample educational equipment. The school term is eight months and the course of study covers ten years when the graduate, equipped with the best high school education that can be provided, is ready for the University or fitted for professional study or a business career.

This trusteeship is an office of honor and not emolument, and the men chosen to discharge its responsible duties are usually citizens conspicuous for their intelligence, high character and zealous interest in the cause that they serve. The present board is composed as follows: W. E. Baskin, President; Edwin McMorries, E. B. McRaven, W. S. McAllum, W. N. Ethridge, men who command the confidence of the public and whose names give assurance that the welfare of Meridian's educational interests are in capable and conscientious keeping.

The growth of the public school system makes an interesting part of the city's annals and a brief sketch of this development, prepared by Hon. W. E. Baskin and incorporated in his address, on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the new high school building, December 5, 1902, is

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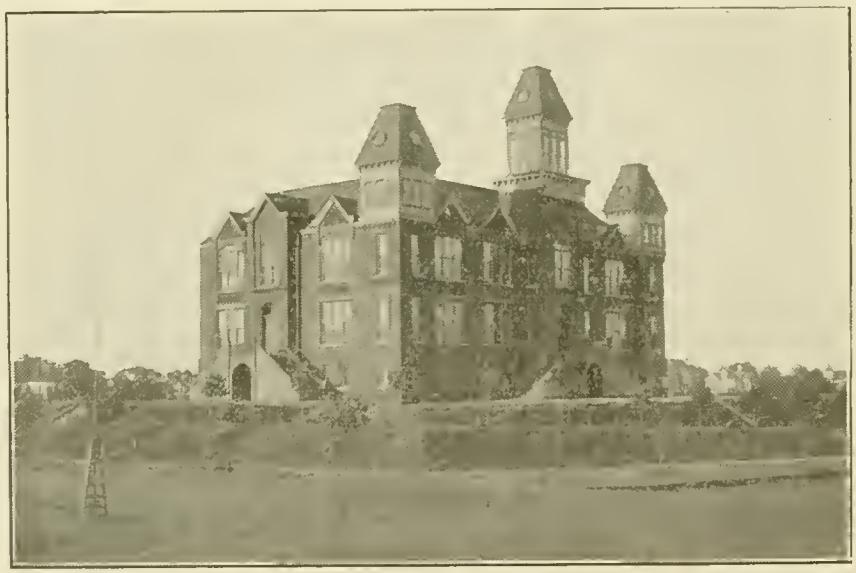
This thoroughly reliable concern represents the leading mills and factories of America and Europe. It is one of the greatest distributors in the entire south. For years it has maintained and has been increasing its high reputation.

here given as illustrating the spirit of educational progress that has characterized this people :

"Just prior and up to the year 1884, the public schools of Meridian were the same as other public schools in Lauderdale county, or the same as country schools, and the councilmen of our city were then ex-officio trustees of the city schools. Until this date of 1884 Meridian did not own any city property, as public school property. There were five public schools in Meridian at this time, three for white and two for negro children, employing six white and four negro teachers. These teachers were required to pay all the expenses of the school out of their salaries—that is, house rent, seats for the buildings and fuel for fires. The term was four months, and the enrollment of pupils for all the schools during this year were about 350 or 400, white and negro pupils.



CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL.

During the year 1884 the city bought a lot for public school purposes from the late L. A. Ragsdale, and part of this lot is still owned by the city and is adjacent to where the W. G. Stevenson primary school now stands. On the first Monday in September, 1884, was the date of the beginning of the present splendid system of public schools in Meridian. Prof. H. J. Frye was elected by the board of trustees as principal of this school, and was assisted by nine lady teachers. This school was opened in a board house forty feet wide and one hundred feet long, ceiled overhead, but not on the sides or ends. The first term taught in this house was ten months; the second term was nine months. The salary of Professor Frye, as principal, was $100 per month, and the average salary of the other teachers about $38 per month. The amount of money used in the public schools of Meridian during this time, for white and negroes, was between $8,000 or $9,000 per annum. The number of pupils enrolled in the white school was about 300 the first year, and about 400 the second.

In 1886 the board of trustees elected Hon. Andrew Armstrong Kincannon as principal, who now occupies the distinguished position of the president of the Industrial Institute and College for women, which institution is a crown of glory and diadem of beauty to the commonwealth of Mississippi. As principal of the city schools, his first term was for nine months, and by his wise policy the enrollment of the pupils increased so that the municipal boards added 112 feet more to the primitive shanty, making the old board house 212 feet long and 40 feet wide.

In 1887 Mr. Kincannon, with a laudable ambition to give the splendid citizenship of this magnificent city of ours such a school of schools as would be in accord with the culture and progress of the people of Meridian, at his own expense visited the northwestern and northeastern states of our union, making practical observations as to the kind and character of the public schools in this section of our union. At this time it was in contemplation of our city fathers to erect suitable school buildings, properly equipped for the education of our children.

The present system of district schools is due to the efforts of Mr. Kincannon, as there was then much mistaken opposition to the course that he desired to pursue. However, we have lived to see the wisdom of his acts, and we all today endorse what was done.

On the completion of the Central, East and West End schools Mr. Kincannon was elected as

HENRY G. MEYER

Jeweler and Optician

Successor to E. R. v. SEUTTER

This name has been identified with the Jewelry Business of this section for nearly half a century and has a Record to sustain for : : : :

JUST, LIBERAL and HONORABLE DEALING

This stock comprises whatever is Tasteful, Beautiful and Artistic in Current Fancies for personal ornament or adornment of Boudoir, Parlor or Library.

SILVERWARE AND ARTICLES OF VERTU

are bought directly of the manufacturers and selected with discrimination and care to meet the exactions of critical taste and artistic perception. : :

WATCHES, JEWELRY AND DIAMONDS

in style and value to captivate every fancy and to suit every purse. : : : : :

An Expert Optician fits and adapts to the eye, absolutely, all Glasses purchased here.

HENRY G. MEYER

Corner 5th St. and 23rd Ave., MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

superintendent of all the schools, and the following able board of trustees were elected to co-operate with him: Hon. S. A. Witherspoon, representing ward one; Hon. E. E. Spinks, the present mayor of our city, representing ward two; Hon. John T. Chalk, ward three; Col. W. G. Stevenson, ward four, and Dr. M. V. B. Miller, ward five.

Meridian public schools, under the administration of Superintendent Kincannon, were a success, and the increase in point of citizenship and wealth to the city was observed by all who took notice of our municipal progress.

In 1894, we are told, Maj. William Patton, an eminent educator of New York, was in the city of Meridian, and when shown the public school buildings and informed as to their short life, declared that 'he did not think there was another town in the United States that could have made such a showing as to schools in this short length of time.'

The cost per capita in the Meridian schools was reduced to 85 cents per month. All other separate school districts in the State, as I am informed, were much higher, ranging from 97 cents to $2.05 per capita per month at this time.

By a petition, unanimously signed by citizens living on the South Side of our city, which petition met the hearty approval of the superintendent of the city schools, the boards of trustees and municipal authorities established a public school in said community or district.

In 1891, five years after Superintendent Kincannon took charge of the Meridian public schools, the value placed on the Meridian public school property was over $60,000. The high standing of the Meridian free public schools at this time at home and abroad was such as to attract the attention of the best citizens living in other sections of the State, and many out of the State; and many moved into Meridian, making their homes with us and investing their money with us.

In 1896, when Mr. Kincannon resigned his office as superintendent of the Meridian public schools to enter upon the duties of state superintendent of education, to which office he had been elected by the people of Mississippi, he left in Meridian four brick school houses for whites and one brick school house for negro children, of the value of $100,000, thirty-nine teachers and an enrollment of 1,900 pupils.

Mr. Kincannon was succeeded in his great work by that splendid soldier, Christian genteman and great educator, Dr. John Greer Dupree, who held the office for only one year, when he resigned it to accept a chair in the university of our State, where he occupies the unique position of being able to teach with ability either Latin, Greek, mathematics or pedagogy.

Dr. Dupree was succeeded by Prof. J. C. Fant as superintendent. He now holds that position, and by his ability and good management the city public schools have been sustained in their high reputation as made for them by Superintendent Kincannon and Dr. J. G. Dupree.

I should feel, ladies and gentlemen, that I had not given the complete epitome of the history of our free public schools were I to fail to bring to your minds one whose name has been connected with the Meridian city schools, as well as Lauderdale county schools. Years ago his ideal was to see the city and county dotted all over with school houses, well constructed and well furnished, in order that our children might be trained up to become the enemies of ignorance and vice, and to have their pathway through life lighted by the lamp of culture, honesty and virtue. This man has lived to see his ideal realized as to the city schools, and also the beginning of his ideal as to country schools. Shall I call this man's name? Every child in Meridian knows Col. W. G. Stevenson, and loves him; and the board of trustees, knowing of his great fondness for the little tots, have christened the only exclusive primary school as the W. G. Stevenson Primary School—an honor to anyone, as it is a model school.

I must add that today we have an enrollment of 2,000 white children and 500 negro children in our free public schools. We have forty-four white teachers and nine negro teachers, and expend for salaries of our teachers $20,400 for our term of eight and one-half months."

The graduating class of the session of '03–'04, numbering thirty-six girls and boys, was the largest in the history of the schools and creditable alike to the accomplished and devoted faculty no less than the able and zealous superintendent. This trinity has combined to make the schools of Meridian the pride of her people: Public interest, faithful administration, capable direction. A live interest on the part of citizens has influenced a wise selection of trustees who, in turn, have chosen men of exceptional ability to the office of superintendent.

The curriculum of the schools of Meridian is formed after the best standards; it is progressive and orderly; bringing the pupil up to an equipment for the Freshman class of the State University at the age that most young people go to college. A boy or girl entering the primary grade at six years completes the course at 16, if attendance has been regular and continuous, and is then well grounded in English and Mathematics and with an elementary knowledge of Latin.

Arundel Lithia Springs

Its Advantages as a Watering Place.

This delightful resort is located in the pine hills of East Mississippi, on the New Orleans & Northeastern Railroad, four miles southwest of Meridian, a city of twenty thousand population.

It is free from MOSQUITOES and MALARIA, and from the disadvantages, prevalent at most watering places, of extravagance in dress, and all artificial nonsense. Guests are made to feel entirely at home, free to rest and recuperate, and enjoy themselves without the restraint of those conventionalities of modern society so obnoxious to sensible people.

A beautiful drive extends from Meridian to the Springs, traversed by a daily hack line, for the accommodation of guests, with the superadded advantages of double daily trains on the New Orleans & Northeastern Railroad.

Telephone facilities are afforded guests without charge. The Tennis Court, Ten Pin Alley, Swings, Boating, Promenades, and other diversions are open to the use and enjoyment of guests at all seasonable hours, without additional charge.

The Natural Attractions.

The natural attractions are numerous and varied. In fact, nature has done for Arundel all that was in her power to do, and art has added many others, rendering it a delightful resort for rest and recuperation.

The grounds are a veritable park. The site of the hotel is a commanding one, surrounded by giant oaks and pines, dispensing refreshing shade and resinous perfumes, with a landscape hardly equaled in the South, overlooking the railroad and meadows, and a grand chain of mountain-like hills in the distance--the Southern spur of the Blue Ridge.

Wild flowers grow in gladsome profusion; the magnolia, the ivy, and the honeysuckle abound. The mockingbird, the lark, the linnet, and divers other Southern songsters fill the air with strains of sweetest music.

A pearly lake of fresh, live, sparkling waters, fed by a bold spring stream of capacity of some sixty thousand gallons per day, is located within two hundred yards of the hotel, furnishing delightful boating, and, in the near future, excellent trout fishing, it having been stocked with yearling trout and other game fish. Here also a commodious natatorium will be presently provided, affording opportunities, especially to women and children, of learning and enjoying the art of swimming. Water is pumped by hydraulic ram to an elevation of one hundred feet or more into a 5,600 gallon tank, elevated above the hotel, for domestic and sanitary uses.

The climate is most salubrious, and this is heightened by the gulf breeze sweeping through an hundred miles of pine forests exhaling the purest of resinous perfumes. The thermometer rarely rises above ninety, and few are the nights, even in midsummer, when covering is not needed.

The hotel is a new two-story building, with modern appointments, newly and suitably furnished—baths, hot and cold, closets, etc.

Under the management of Mr. Henry J. Huling, an ideal host and caterer of experi-

ence, this resort is gaining as wide a fame for the character of its entertainment as for the excellence of its waters. The table is supplied with every seasonable delicacy, and every provision is made for the comfort and enjoyment of guests.

Arundel Lithia Water.

Arundel Lithia Water is pronounced on high authority the equal, if not the superior, of any known mineral water, either in the point of analytical excellence or curative virtue.

THE ANALYSIS shows those rarest of minerals, Lithium, Rubidium, and Cæsium, in combination with Sulphate of Magnesium, in water of unparalleled purity.

It cures Bright's Disease. This remarkble fact is announced on high authority. It is prescribed by all physicians (who know anytning about it) in all Kidney, Bladder, and Stomach troubles, inclusive of Dyspepsia, Dropsy. Gout, Calculi, Cystitis, Stricture, Albuminuria, Rheumatism, Pregnancy, and Fevers.

In Nausea, and "Whisky Stomach," and as a "Chaser" it has no equal.

It is a peerless table water—clear as crystal, no sediment, delightful to the taste, a fine appetizer, and an enemy to indigestion.

No loss of vitality by age if kept tightly corked.

Drink freely for speedy and satisfactory results.

Pamphlets of reports and testimonials of the highest character will be furnished on application.

ARUNDEL LITHIA SPRINGS CO.,

P. O. Drawer 567,

MERIDIAN, MISS.

Meridian Plumbing Co.

Modern Sanitary Plumbing,
Gas and Steam Fittings,
Electric Fans and Electrical
Repairing, Cabinet Mantles,
Tiling and Grates. : : : :

Fourth St., Bet. 22nd and 23rd Aves.,

MERIDIAN, = = = = MISSISSIPPI.

EVAN'S STORE,

406-408 22nd Avenue,

Telephone 625, = = = = MERIDIAN, MISS.

The Best Goods, always, at the Lowest Possible Prices, Polite Attention and Quick Delivery.

Agents for McCall's Patterns.

JOHN KAMPER MILLING CO.

MILLERS,

And Wholesale Grain Dealers.

Car Lots a Specialty. Correspondence Solicited.

MERIDIAN, MISS.

Merchants Union Insurance Co.

OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

The first company ever organized in the state with a fully paid up capital.

PAID UP CAPITAL $100,000.

Over $10,000 net surplus after Yazoo City conflagration.

L. ROTHENBERG, Prest. H. M. STREET, Sec'y.

SOCIAL.

There is, perhaps, no large town in the United States where the social status of the individual is more emphatically fixed by moral worth than in Meridian. Equally removed from the extremes of wealth and poverty, owning no paupers nor millionaires, there are no class distinctions save those that distinguish the worker from the loafer, the honest man from the rogue, the moral from the immoral, the educated from the ignorant. In the social economy prevailing, worthiness is the supreme test, and it is inexorably applied in every relation of life. A potent moral influence dominates the community and all who seek social recognition must conform to it.

A cordial welcome and the kindliest hospitality awaits every new comer in the midst of this people; the right hand of fellowship is at once extended and never withdrawn except for cause. No one asks any question as to politics, place of birth or religion of the stranger; whether Democrat or Republican, whether from Maine or Florida, whether Jew or Gentile, the same welcome and kindly consideration awaits him, if only he exhibits those essentials of conduct and character that belong to good citizenship. It may be said right here, that a goodly proportion of our most influential citizens in every line of business came from north of Mason and Dixon line and their social status is unquestioned.

The refinements of society obtain here in an eminent degree; and culture, along the lines of music, art and literature is nourished by societies devoted to the study of each, whose membership embraces ladies and gentlemen of good talents and earnest purpose. The drama is here encouraged, and one of the handsomest and best appointed theatres in the South affords, during a season of seven months, entertainment by the best histrionic talent in the country. A lyceum course, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., contributes every winter to intellectual growth and entertainment and receives a liberal patronage.

MAPLE COTTAGE---JUDGE R. F. COCHRAN'S RESIDENCE.

CHURCHES.

The handsome churches of Meridian, the high character of their ministers and priests, and the large congregations that fill them every Sunday are evidences of the wholesome influences that govern the social life of the city. They are active in every movement for the moral betterment while every work of benevolence enlists their generous aid. There is no dominating creed, but all work

SHOES

That possess Style, Quality and Comfort, is what makes the

QUARLES SHOE CO.

so popular. And it is rapidly becoming the

FAMILY SHOE STORE

OF MERIDIAN.

FEET HURTS!

All this can be avoided by allowing us to FIT YOUR FEET. We know how, and we guarantee a fit. Try us one time. Every Style and Quality.

QUARLES SHOE CO.

C. J. HYDE,

Southern Standard Cotton Press Company

MANUFACTURERS OF

COTTON AND HAY PRESSES

Dealers in Machinery, Mill Supplies, Wire Rope, Cane & Corn Mills, Gins, McCormick Mowers, Etc.

LEO LUTZ,

—DEALER IN—

MEATS, VEAL, PORK, MUTTON, GAME,

Fish and Oysters, Dressed Chickens and Turkeys.

Telephone No. 40. City Market.

harmoniously together for the common good, each guided by the lights vouchsafed them. Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, unite, without friction, in every good enterprise for the relief of suffering or the uplifting of the moral standard. The broad tolerance that obtains among all creeds contributes to the cohesiveness of these influential agencies in social upbuilding and makes more effective the individual and common effort. The churches and Sunday schools of Meridian are conspicuous and beneficent factors in the city's civil and social economy.

The different sects and creeds are thus represented by churches:

Catholic, one.

Episcopal, two.

Methodist, four.

Baptist, four.

Christian, one.

Presbyterian, two.

Cumberland Presbyterian, one.

Jewish, one.

Besides these missions of the Christian Catholic (Zion) church, and other denominations are sustained. A flourishing Young Men's Christian Association is doing a good work, while a branch of the Salvation Army is also stationed in the city.

MANUFACTURING.

Few cities of the South yield better opportunities for manufacturing enterprises than does Meridian, and these have not been neglected.

While surrounded by a thrifty and prosperous agricultural country, whose trade must inevitably assure a large degree of commercial activity, sufficient always to sustain a town of respectable proportions, the intelligence and enterprise of this people have not ignored the exceptional advantages prevailing here for manufactures and the energies of this citizenship are largely directed towards building here a city whose strength will abide, to an eminent degree, in its internal industrial resources. These advantages for this kind of enterprise are here enjoyed:

First. Proximity to raw material for textile, wood and iron manufactures.

FOURTH STREET, LOOKING EAST.

Second. Easy accessibility to the markets of of the world and reasonable freight rates.

Third. Cheap fuel; steam coal costing, as a rule, not more than two dollars per ton.

Fourth. An abundance of labor unaffected by the disorders that embarrass industrial operations elsewhere.

Fifth. Exemption of all textile, iron or wood manufactures from taxation for a period of ten years.

Sixth. A wide pervading public sentiment that fosters and encourages every manufacturing enterprise that seeks location here.

Seventh. The absence of any legislation or suggestion thereof, tending to embarrass the relations of employer and employee.

MISSISSIPPI
COTTON OIL CO.

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

THE PIONEER MILL

AND LARGEST IN THIS SECTION.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Cotton Seed Meal,

Cotton Seed Hulls, Loose and Sacked,

Cotton Seed Lint,

Cotton Seed Oil.

This company enjoys the fullest confidence of the trade on account of quality and weights of its products, as well as promptness and courtesy in serving customers. Highest market prices paid for seed.

Recognizing these things local capital has not been slow to take advantage of them and the city points with just pride to the splendid success achieved by every factory established in Meridian during recent years. Their growth has been continuous, and the markets reached by their products constantly enlarging as their capacity expanded.

The manufactures today in profitable operation in Meridian are:

One cotton mill,
Four cotton-seed oil mills,
Three fertilizer factories,
Two foundries and machine shops,
One furniture factory,
One corn meal and grist mill,
One soap factory,
Two ice factories,

The T. J. Bostick & Sons' sash, door and blind factory is a striking illustration of the possibilities that wait on wood-working establishments in Meridian. In a very few years, through the enterprise, energy and intelligence of the management, this concern has developed into one of the largest plants of its kind in the State and is constantly extending the territory of its trade in every description of the finished products of lumber.

In addition to these are located here the shops of the Queen and Crescent railroad system, giving employment to more than three hundred people, skilled and unskilled. The Meridian Gas Light Company, which is constantly expanding its service to embrace every part of the city and the Electric Light and Railway Company, which has the con

FIFTH STREET LOOKING WEST.

Twelve wood-working plants,
Two saddle and harness factories,
Two candy factories,
Two steam laundries,
Two hay press factories,
Three brick manufactories,
Three mattress and broom factories,
One pants and overalls factory,
Two bottling works,
One cigar factory,
One box factory,
Two excelsior factories,
One coffin factory,
One ladder factory,
One chair factory,
One book bindery,

tract for city illumination, each employ in their useful service a large number of men.

The pay-rolls of this industrial aggregation are no inconsiderable factor in the economy of the city as it relates to the retail trade; and as this industrial equipment increases, persuaded by the successes already achieved, every interest is bound to feel the impulse of activity therein imparted.

The encouragement of manufactures is a gospel of universal acceptance among all classes in Meridian, because every one realizes that herein lies the best assurance for the future growth and prosperity of the city, and every enterprise of this character here was launched and is conducted by home people and capital, thus giving proof of the faith that animates the preaching of that industrial

FACTS.

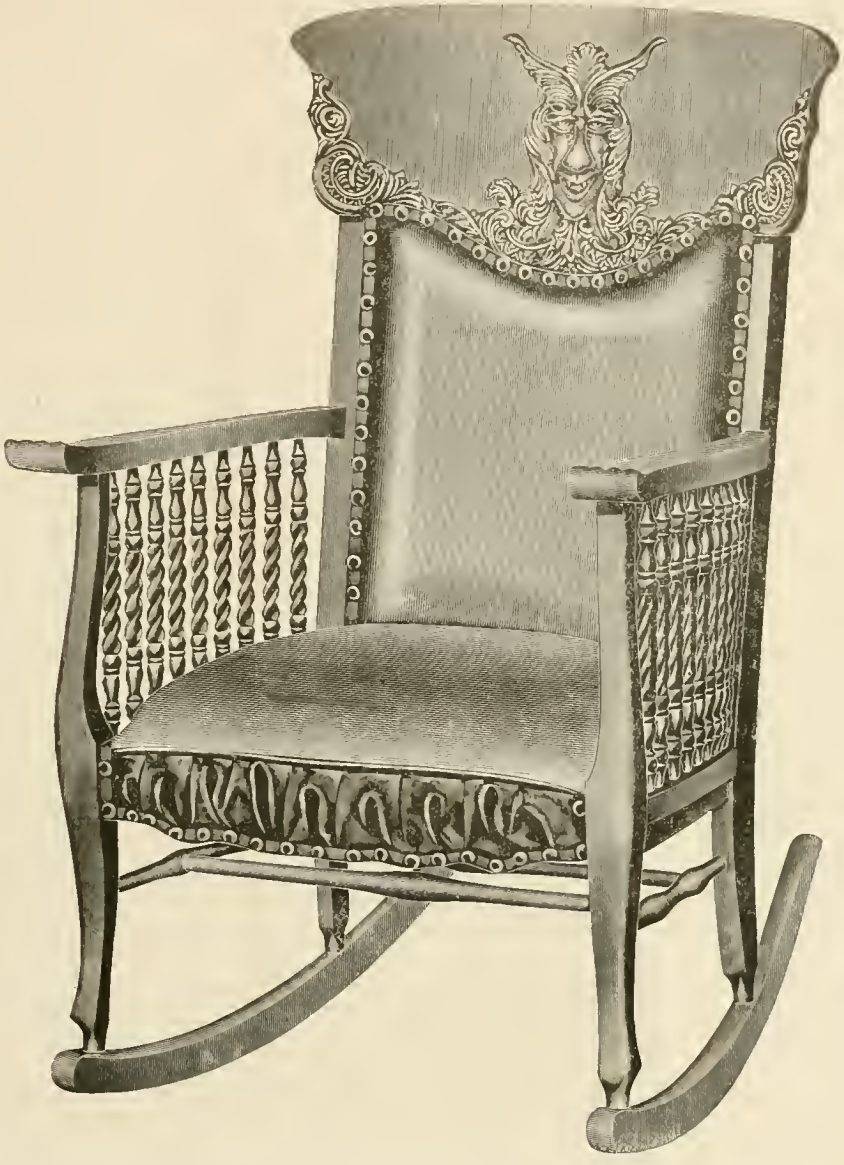
Our business is upholstering in all its branches. We are here to stay and we have already the reputation of doing as good work as can be made anywhere.

If you buy anything in the upholstering line from the furniture store, you have no assurance of how it is made as he buys it from the factory where it is put up, generally, for the lowest price. It is generally made to look most attractive, but soon breaks down, as we have seen many handsome couches do in six months time. Well, you go back where you bought it and tell him your troubles. Yes, he will say, they do break down sometimes.

Skirt Boxes, something new, can be used in the parlor, or anywhere, and answer as a seat as well as a fine place to store your best clothes.

Box Couches which answer for a fine resting place when you are tired and a fine wardrobe underneath which no one would know was there.

THIS HANDSOME ROCKER



$1. Down, $1. per week. Will Last for a Lifetime.

Fine big Dongola Imported Couches, in New York Leather, $22.00, one dollar down, one dollar per week. Buy of the manufacturer; cut out the middle man. We can compete with all comers, besides giving you the very best work. Well, our side of it is, we do not pretend to make a job for you that will last forever, but we do say this, that when you deal with us, you know who made it, and we are here all the time and expect to be, as our trade is steadily increasing, and if we do not do good work we know that you will be in to see us, if you are dissatisfied, and that you will tell your neighbors all about us. Does this not appeal to you? It ought to.

CHAS. W. HUNTER,

2326 Fourth Street, = = = *MERIDIAN, MISS.*

gospel. The success of these local undertakings is a constant invitation to others because they demonstrate practically the value of the advantages above enumerated.

The State, county and municipal tax exemptions are an index of the cordial welcome that awaits investment in these lines; the splendid railroad facilities and reasonable freight rates are important considerations; the salubrity of the climate, the absence of industrial disorders, the low cost of fuel, the proximity of raw materials, and the low cost of living, combine to afford advantages for manufacturing which few communities can boast and which must necessarily make Meridian, ultimately, one of the important industrial centers of the South. The cotton mills, which have been in operation here since 1896, have doubled their capacity since their establishment and the success achieved has inspired a movement for another factory of equal capacity by home capital.

LUMBER.

The manufacture and sale of lumber, both in the rough and the finished product, are important factors in the industrial and commercial equipment of the city, giving employment to a large number of people and bringing a generous volume of money hither. The long leaf yellow pine is the principal source of supply and is shipped hence in enormous quantities to the North and West. The volume of the lumber business in Meridian is very great and constantly increasing as the number of mills erected in the circumjacent territory is multiplied.

FEDERAL BUILDING.

Perhaps no point in the South possesses greater advantages for the establishment of wood-working factories than does this city; for here, at our doors, are unlimited supplies of both soft and hard woods in the perfection of growth. In addition to the almost inexhaustible supplies of long leaf yellow pine, large areas of oak, hickory and other hard woods abound, inviting to the manufacture of

A. R. JOHNSON,

THE FRONT STREET

DRUGGIST

AND DEALER IN TOILET ACCESSORIES,

Has added another building to accommodate his increasing trade in Wall Paper and Paints, where are kept constantly in stock

American Mixed Paints, Carter's Lead, and the Latest Styles in Wall Paper.

FRONT STREET, = - = *MERIDIAN, MISS.*

GURLEY SADDLERY COMPANY,

MANUFACTURERS OF

SADDLERY AND HARNESS,

Dealers in Wagons, Buggies, Hacks, Surries, Phaetons, Etc.,

MERIDIAN, MISS.

The Name **NIOLON**

Has become synonymous in Meridian and East Mississippi with Matutinal and Evening Refreshment, because it is his Exclusive Business to minister to the Tea and Breakfast Tables. : : He has fixed a standard of excellence in Teas, Coffees, Sugars, Etc., that he could not depart from if he would. COFFEE ROASTED EVERY DAY, therefore always fresh. When the best is wanted, order of

CORNER 6th ST. and 23rd AVE. *A. H. NIOLON.*

CLIFF WILLIAMS MACHINE COMPANY,

HOME OFFICE, MERIDIAN, MISS.

Our Portable Sawmills on wheels cut stuff 40 feet long. Move one day and run the next. We build a mill especially for hardwood. Road engines are cheaper than horses. We manufacture Log Carts, Go-Devils, and Low Wagons.

We carry stock of mill supplies and repair machinery. We carry stock of mills, and have branch offices, Hattiesburg and Gulfport, Miss., and Mobile, Ala.

CLIFF WILLIAMS, Meridian, Miss.

"WE HANDLE NEW MOLASSES BARRELS."

HARVEY & CO.,

DEALERS IN

Wool, Hides, Furs, Cotton, Beeswax, Etc.,

310-312 26th Avenue, = = = MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

vehicles and furniture of every kind. It is a little remarkable to observe car loads of these hard woods shipped from this vicinity to some point in the West to be returned to us in buggies, carts, wagons, agricultural implements and household furniture; but signs are abundant that the days of this kind of economic paradox are numbered, and hereafter the profit of the manufacture will be kept at home. The wood-working plants now in profitable operation in Meridian give assurance of a multiplication of factories of this character.

COMMERCIAL.

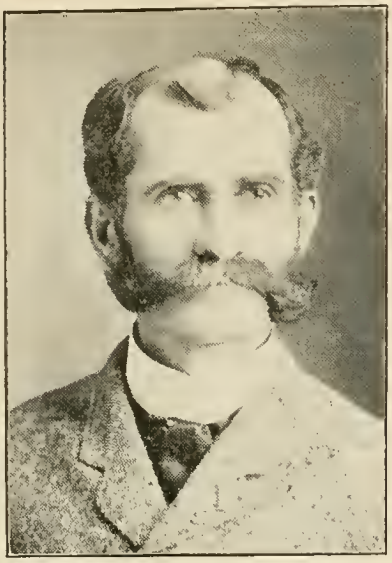
Commercial Meridian is a development; a gradual, if rapid, growth that has known no backward step since the beginning of the town; year by year the volume of business transacted here has steadily increased, year by year the trade territory has been expanded, the business houses grown taller and broader and new ones constantly added to keep pace with the development, until today the city boasts the largest wholesale and retail houses in the State, several of them equalling in stocks carried and annual business the leading firms of Atlanta and New Orleans; and like everything else in Meridian, each one of these big concerns is home grown; the result of steady accretions from year to year from modest beginnings. No large capital ever launched a business in this city; the houses that are today selling goods all over Alabama and Mississippi contemplated, in their beginning, only local demands and the expansion has been a logical result of the inevitable processes of growth.

Meridian has never known any large commercial failure, and few indeed of any kind; which fact demonstrates the soundness and conservative character of her business enterprises and the men who conduct them. Many have wondered at this remarkable trade development and asked whence it came and what nourished it; superficially, little could be seen to justify such progress, and even our own people frequently ask what makes the town grow and prosper as it does, because there is, apparently, no single agency conspicuously present as a contributing cause. But the wonder disappears when one looks beneath the surface and recognizes a variety and multiplicity of forces, harmoniously working together towards a common end.

In the first place, a public spirit abides among these business men that nourishes civic pride and patriotism, and makes united and cohesive all the forces and capabilities of the community in achieving things for the city's aggrandisement. The men who lead in commercial undertakings are usually men of high character, commanding the confidence of the public, and moral, as well as financial strength, is exacted of all who aspire to leadership. The Board of Trade and Cotton Exchange is the medium through which these forces are united and made effective, and the sense of pride in the city and her advancement is kept alive and nourished. This moral resource does not proclaim itself, but it is the ground work of Meridian's commercial growth and prosperity.

The material agencies that contribute most largely to this wholesome development are the junction here of important railroads, the generous

MASONIC TEMPLE.



BARBOUR'S

THE BUSY STORE

Front St., Meridian, Miss.

"Yor Mony Bak if you want it."

KAYE'S STEAM BOTTLING WORKS,

MANUFACTURERS AND BOTTLERS OF

Soda Water, Seltzer and Cider.

The Purity and Excellence of our goods are recognized wherever they are introduced, and that is why we keep all of our old customers and make new ones every day.

Swimming Pool and Shower Bath Annex.

Cor. 5th St. and 26th Ave., - - *MERIDIAN, MISS.*

NO PAINT, NO SODA WATER, NO GARDEN SEED, BUT EVERYTHING IN DRUGS.

GUS C. KENDALL,

Phone 145. 4th St. and 22nd Ave., MERIDIAN, MISS.

L. FUNKENSTEIN,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN

Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes and Groceries.

Makes a Specialty of Reliable Goods. Courteous attention and prompt Delivery and low prices.

208 and 210 22nd Avenue, MERIDIAN, MISS.

cotton receipts, amounting to over an hundred thousand bales annually, the liberal prices paid for the staple by local merchants to keep trade at home, the large lumber interests that are centered here and the large number of manufacturing enterprises that have found homes in this city, induced hither by the manifold advantages that are offered.

These agencies, combined, have produced results that no single agency could have accomplisheed; because where reliance is upon one source of support, any disaster to that interest works discouragement to enterprise if it does not do serious harm to business; whereas, with several sources of strength to draw from, the failure of one is not so serious and never calamitous.

The commercial equipment of the city today consists in

Eight dealers in paints and oils,
Four dealers in harness and saddlery,
Seven furniture dealers,
Two hide and wool merchants,
Seven hotels,
Five livery stables,
Three photograph galleries,
Eight fire insurance agencies,
Ten drug stores,
Twenty-eight retail dry goods stores,
Twelve retail clothing stores,
Sixty-five retail grocers,
Eight milliners,
One upholsterer,
Two organ and piano dealers,
Three job printing offices,
One daily newspaper,

K. THREEFOOT'S RESIDENCE,

Five banks,
One fire insurance company,
Twelve cotton buyers,
Six commission merchants,
Nine wholesale grocers,
Four wholesale dry goods houses.
Six hardware dealers,
Three booksellers and stationers,
Four wholesale clothing dealers,
Five wood and coal dealers,
Fifteen lumber merchants,
Three dealers in builders supplies,
Three plumbers,
Two dealers in mill supplies,
Five dealers in vehicles,
Five dealers in mules and horses,
Four coal dealers,
Five jewelers,
Two exclusive shoe dealers,
Eight restaurants,
Two marble yards,
Seven merchant tailors,
Three bakeries.

Besides these there is the usual complement of confectioners, fruit dealers, meat and fish markets, etc., etc., that go to supply the needs of a modern city.

Insure in the Merchants Union Insurance Company and keep money at home. Represented by all agents in Meridian.

The Citizens National Bank.

If any single institution of Meridian might be selected as typical of the growth and development of the city, as illustrating the processes of that growth, as they have been unfolded during the past fifteen years; if any institution has been peculiarly a consistent part of the commercial and industrial expansion, keeping time and rhythm with that movement, in its ever broadening lines, that institution is the Citizens National Bank, the tangible and cumulative expression of commercial achievement.

In 1888 Meridian was a modest town, but ambitious and hopeful; two strong banks seemed to supply the commercial needs of the place, but it occurred to Mr. W. A. Brown and others that there was room here for a savings bank, owned and directed by home people, organized and conducted on conservative lines. The capital was fixed at 1000 shares of $50 each, payable in monthly installments of one dollar per share. This was certainly an unique method of organizing a bank, but the man who originated the plan had the confidence of the community and faith in its feasibility; so that in a very short time the shares were all taken, and in March, 1888, a charter was obtained and the Citizens Savings commenced business, in modest quarters, on May 7th, following, with Thos. H. Woods for president, W. A. Brown, cashier, and Paul Brown, the present popular assistant cashier, was runner.

The new enterprise was strictly a home institution, owned and directed by home people; unostentatious, its best capital was the business capacity and integrity of the men who managed it, and public confidence was early manifested in a liberal line of savings as well as ordinary deposits. Day by day the business of the bank constantly increased, each quarterly statement showed a still larger volume of business, and during the next ten years annually added to its strength, popularity and influence in the commercial world; commanding an ever increasing respect and confidence. The financial storm of 1893, that strewed the commercial shore with wrecks of ancient institutions, passed over the stalwart young bank and left it more strongly entrenched than ever in the confidence of the business world.

These were the years of Meridian's internal development, of constant trade accretion and industrial growth; the city, soon after the panic of '93, began a period of substantial and enduring progress that enlisted all her people's energies and capital; and in the forefront of this onward movement, this real and rational upbuilding, were found the resources of the Citizens Bank and the activities of the men who directed its affairs, guiding, aiding, strengthening every legitimate and helpful enterprise. In 1899 the capital was increased to $75,000.

In 1900 the man who had stood at the helm from the day when the bank was launched upon the commercial seas, who had steered it over shoals and through the tempest of financial panic to the serene waters of established confidence and permanent prosperity, won the recognition that he had earned, and Mr. W. A. Brown was elected to the presidency. Col. H. M. Street, than whom no man more completely commands the unqualified confidence and esteem of the people, not only of Meridian, but of all Mississippi, was chosen vice-president; Mr. J. E. Reed, just retired from the office of sheriff, with a record as official and private citizen of which any man might be justly proud, assumed the duties of cashier, and Mr. Paul Brown, who had won his honors by twelve years of intelligent, zealous and faithful servant, was made assistant cashier.

In 1901 the general banking business having so largely outgrown the savings feature of the bank, it was decided to eliminate this department, and the Citizens Bank was the result, with capital increased to $100,000, the officers remaining the same as before, and the business of the bank keeping pace with the rapid commercial expansion, that began to develop about this time, and which has been cumulative up to this writing.

The mergence of the Meridian National Bank into the Union Bank and Trust Co. left but a single National bank in Meridian, and the opportunity seemed favorable for the conversion of the Citizens into a National bank, which was accordingly accomplished, in June of the present year, with an increase of capital to $150,000.

With the organization of the Citizens National, Mr. W. G. Simpson, of Albany, Kentucky, became a stock-holder and was elected cashier to succeed Mr. J. E. Reed, who had won promotion to 2nd Vice-President. Mr. Simpson comes to Meridian with a record as a man and a banker, that makes his new connection and association peculiarly fitting and congenial. Of conservative temper and high standards of business conduct, of pleasant address and courteous demeanor, he is thoroughly adapted to the new environment upon which he has entered and fits perfectly into the niche provided for him.

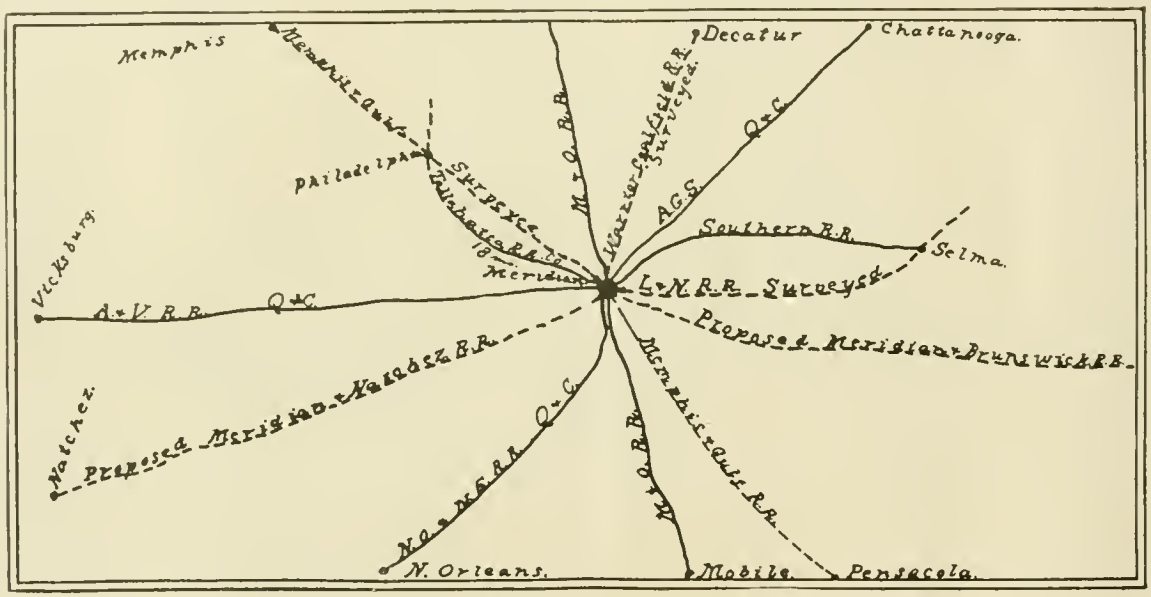
This, in brief, is the story of big things from little, of the oak from the acorn, that coincides with and reflects, in its gradual unfolding, the story of Meridian during 16 years; and in its recital it is pleasant to note the demonstration, here, of the value of character in successful business achievement. The Citizens National Bank is not the product of capital or the result of any adventitious circumstance, but it is an endearing example of the possibilities of achievement that wait on uncompromising honesty, singleness of purpose and unremitting industry, linked with intelligence in the realm of banking, the qualities that have found expression in the character and career of its President, Mr. W. A. Brown, and all of his associates. The Citizens National stands today an illumination of the ethical side of commercial life and an inspiration for every young man beginning a business career.

The officers and directors of the Citizens National today are, Officers: W. A. Brown, Pres't, H. M. Street, Vice-Pres't, J. E. Reed, 2nd Vice-Pres't, W. G. Simpson, Cashier, Paul Brown, Assistant Cashier. Directors: H. M. Street, J. E. Reed, C. C. Miller, W. G. Simpson, E. Cahn, E. S. Bostick and W. A. Brown.

RAILROADS.

As already indicated, Meridian owes, in large measure her rapid and substantial growth and development to the junction here of important railway lines running north and south, east and west. The city being a junction point for these extensive systems, through this fact, enjoys exceptional advantages in freight rates, which are no inconsiderable factor in the economy of manufacturing, as well as the constantly increasing jobbing trade that the enterprise of her merchants has developed. Realizing these advantages, that the railroads have brought, the public spirit of the city is alive to increase the equipment in this respect, and liberal encouragement is extended to every new line suggested or projected.

The accompanying outline map indicates the railroad lines existing and projected into Meridian.



RAILROADS COMPLETED AND PROJECTED, MERIDIAN, MISS.

Several of these new lines are practically assured at a very early date, particularly the Memphis and Gulf and the connection with the Mobile, Jackson and Kansas City, both yielding a new line to the West and traversing a territory rich in trade for this city.

A new Union passenger depot, which promises to be the handsomest and most commodious in the State, has been determined upon by the roads centering here, the ground secured, plans and specifications drawn and the work preparatory to construction has already begun. It is expected that by January, 1905, the building will be completed and another architectural ornament be added to Meridian's equipment in this respect. Last year the M. & O. and Southern Railroads jointly erected a handsome and commodious freight depot, a cut of which appears elsewhere.

THE BOARD OF TRADE AND COTTON EXCHANGE.

A most potent and active agency in promoting the upbuilding of the city, encouraging every forward movement, commercial, industrial and civic, uniting individual units of enterprise into a compact and effective force for the common good, is the Board of Trade and Cotton Exchange, composed of the representative and influential elements in the civic economy, that take cognizance of whatever pertains to the welfare of the community in every material and civil relation. Its membership embraces the best exponents of the commercial, industrial and professional life of the city, while its officers and committees are zealous and alert in the work assigned them of building always for a greater and better Meridian.

A few years ago this body absorbed the Young Men's Business League and took over the functions of that organization, thus extending the sphere of its endeavors beyond the purely commercial to include whatever pertained to the city's advancement along all lines of betterment and growth. The Board owns the building occupied by it and furnishes to its membership quotations from all the principal markets of the United States and Europe, its facilities in this respect equalling those of the larger cities. The officers and executive committee are elected annually; the present governing body being as follows:

OFFICERS.—O. L. McKay, President; E. McMorries, Vice-President; F. C. McGhee, Treasurer; B. J. Carter, Secretary.

DIRECTORS.—A. H. George, Sam Meyer, T. E. Rivers, H. L. McKee, K. Threefoot, J. V. Williams, Levi Rothenberg.

The Union Bank and Trust Company.

In the story of the commercial progress and development of every community, the birth of a new bank is epochal; it marks another period of growth accomplished, another expansion of the business circumference, another equipment for larger undertakings; and so when the Union Bank & Trust Company was organized in the summer of 1903 by Meridian bankers and business men it was an announcement that the city had grown to the point where such an institution was needed in the business economy.

The men who originated the enterprise were men of large experience and long identification with the business interests of the city; they were, therefore, eminently qualified to pronounce upon the merits of the opportunity as well as to direct the launching of the enterprise. They realized that the trust feature would meet a constantly increasing demand for the safe keeping of funds for estates, minors and other trusteeships, and determined to combine this function with the usual banking business. To accomplish this, successfully, not only financial responsibility of the first order was demanded, but the character of the men entrusted with the direction of the bank's affairs must be up to the highest standard. They must be men who were known and trusted because they were known, so the officering of the institution was no less important than the subscriptions to the stock.

A capital of $160,000 was readily subscribed, and a board of directors chosen whose personel meant unqualified confidence. These in turn select as officers those whose names are the synonym of integrity and business ability in this community. The officers and directors chosen were—Officers: Geo. W. Meyer, President, E. B. McRaven, Vice-President, O. L. McKay, Vice-President, A. C. Hunter, Cashier. Directors: G. W. Meyer, J. A. Gibson, Sam Greenwald, A. H. Cooper, W. Meeds, H. G. Meyer, A. J. Lyon, Sam Meyer, O. L. McKay, A. H. George, J. F. Miazza, E. B. McRaven, J. R. Dowdle, E. L. Robins, A. C. Hunter.

No sooner was the new institution organized than an opportunity offered to purchase the stock of the Meridian National Bank, one of the oldest and soundest financial institutions in the State; this purchase was consummated and the Union Bank & Trust Company took charge of the building and business of the Meridian National, commanding at once a generous line of deposits as well as a liberal share of the general banking business of the city.

THE BOYETTE SANITARIUM.

The Boyette Sanitarium, located on 7th St. and 33rd Ave., is one of the permanent institutions of Meridian, having been established and successfully operated for two years by its efficient superintendent, Mrs. Ruby Boyette.

The need of a haven for the sick and care-worn, in a growing city like Meridian, was first met by Mrs. Boyette in the opening of this sanitarium, where her executive ability and untiring energy have proven potential factors in obtaining such happy results.

A Nurses' Training School is one of the important features of this institution, the class receiving the benefit of a course of lectures by the leading physicians of the city who practice in the Sanitarium.

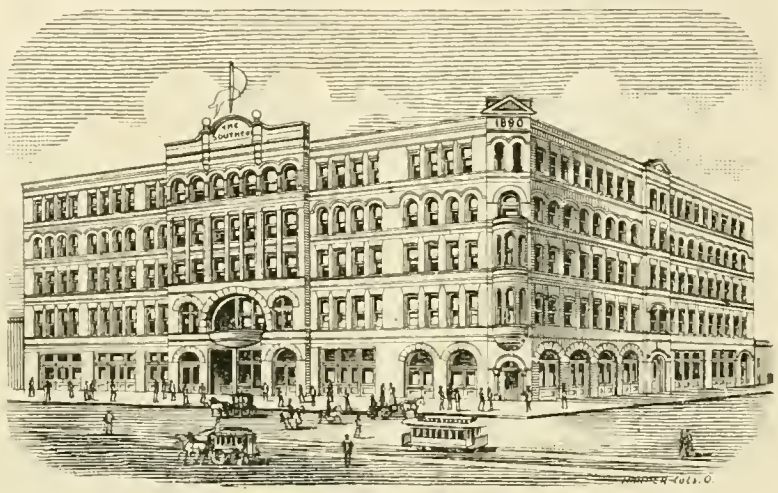
Those who have been nursed back to life and hope within these walls render ample testimony to the value of such an institution in the community.

COTTON.

Located in the center of the upland cotton district, Meridian is essentially an important inland cotton market, about 100,000 bales being handled here annually. The transportation and compress facilities are equal to the best enjoyed by interior makets, while a number of the largest cotton buyers in the United States maintain agencies here during the season, paying liberal prices for the staple as compared with other markets. Local merchants are also liberal cotton buyers and the prices that are maintained through a lively competition make it more advantageous for the grower to sell his product in the home market than to ship it to any port. The Board of Trade and Cotton Exchange receives quotations from all domestic and foreign markets, thus yielding the same facilities to the trade that are enjoyed at the larger and more important centers.

While every effort is being made to develop local manufactures and encourage the industrial movement in every possible way, it is recognized that cotton must remain for many years a most important element in the city's commercial economy, and for this reason every business interest takes a genuine interest in whatever relates to the well being and prosperity of cotton growing. With a constantly growing volume of receipts, an expansion of the territory commercially tributary to the city and an increased productiveness of cotton lands, the staple's contribution to the city's trade must be continually enlarged from year to year.

The compress and market facilities, the storage capacity of the warehouses located here, the reasonable insurance rates and the bank accommodations afforded, joined with the keen competition among buyers, make the city an increasingly better market for the staple and cannot fail, ultimately, to make Meridian the centre of the cotton trade for a much wider territory than now enjoyed. Moreover, cotton production is constantly increasing in this territory; farmers are using fertilizers more liberally than formerly, and the average product per acre, through more careful cultivation, is growing annually larger and larger. All things considered, it is reasonable to anticipate that Meridian's cotton receipts will be doubled within the next decade.



SOUTHERN HOTEL.

THE ONLY
JEWELRY
MANUFACTURERS IN THE STATE.
We Satisfy the People
When it Comes to Work. Bring us your Watch.
MOORE & GRAHAM,
Meridian, Miss.

Established 1843.
D. ROSENBAUM began business at Old Marion sixty years ago.
Moved to Meridian in 1865.

D. ROSENBAUM'S SONS,

building upon that firm foundation, have erected a business of constantly increasing proportions.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL **Dry Goods, Groceries and Clothing**

Corner Fourth St. and 25th Avenue, = MERIDIAN, MISS.

ELMIRE'S RESTAURANT

Opposite Union Depot, Meridian, Miss.

Game, Fish and Oysters in season. Regular Meals 25 cents.
Our Motto=="Quick and Clean Service at Moderate Prices."
Furnished Rooms for Rent. We Solicit a Part of Your Patronage.

FIRST-CLASS SODA FOUNTAIN,

Confections and Cigars,
Agent for Plow's, Lyon's, and Wiley's Candies, Manufacturer of Ice Cream.
Write for prices.

E. H. ERICKSON,

MERIDIAN, MISS.

B. M. FEIBELMAN,

DEALER IN
IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC
CIGARS,

SMOKERS' ARTICLES,
Periodicals, Daily Papers, Whiting's Stationery. Agent for Gunther's Candy.
MERIDIAN, MISS.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY.

An Inviting Field for the Farmer of Moderate Means Where Comfort Combines with Profit to Make an Ideal Home.

Lauderdale is one of the originial counties of the State; that is, it was not made up from portions of other counties. It was formed out of United States territory. In shape the county is square, with the exception of the southeastern corner, from which the Alabama State line nips a small piece of territory.

In December, 1833, an act of the State Legislature provided for the establishment of a county out of four townships from each of five ranges. Messrs. Samuel Grayson, Asa Hartsfield, Robert James, William Ellis, H. W. Ward, Henry Hale, George Evans, C. Dyer, N. Martin and J. Bidewell were appointed commissioners to lay out the county, which duty they performed in accordance with instructions given. The county thus established was named Lauderdale, in memory of Col. James Lauderdale, who fell in battle at New Orleans.

The territory out of which Lauderdale county was formed is a part of that acquired by the United States Government from the Choctaw Indians by what is known as the treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek.

In Lauderdale county, of which Meridian is the capital, as in nearly all parts of East Mississippi, diversified farming largely prevails. While cotton continues to be the leading crop, the growth of the staple is every year more and more supplemented by other crops, both for market and domestic consumption. The farmers, as a rule, own the land that they cultivate; and wherever intelligence and thrift guide the conduct of the farm, comfort and abundance are found. Lands are reasonably cheap. Good farms can be bought from eight to ten dollars per acre, appreciating in value, however, in direct ratio with proximity to market and quality of soil and improvements thereon. Well improved places, within easy reach of Meridian, can be bought for fifteen dollars per acre. These low prices are due to the fact that a considerable area of government land subject to entry yet remains, unentered, throughout this section.

The soil is of a sandy loam, underlaid with a clay sub-soil, and with reasonable fertilization produces good crops; a bale of cotton or fifty bushels of corn per acre being readily obtained where intelligent cultivation prevails. Commercial fertilizers are largely employed; but many farmers keep their lands fertile and productive by planting field peas, two crops of which may be grown in a single year.

The diversity of products, the equable climate, the equal and favorable seasons, the distribution of rainfall, eliminating alike the dangers of flood and drouth, and freedom from the ravages of insects that prey upon the crops of other sections, all combine to make this a favored region for the remunerative employment of the energies of the farmer of small means or large.

TRUCK FARMING.

Aside from cotton, everywhere the principal crop in the South, conditions prevailing here are peculiarly favorable to the growth of truck, fruit and vegetables. Irish potatoes are profitably grown and two crops can be easily produced per year; or a crop of Irish potatoes may be followed by sweet potatoes on the same land. English peas, beans, tomatoes, cabbages, turnips, sweet corn, etc., find a ready market at good prices in both Spring and Autumn, and many industrious farmers derive from these side crops a sufficient revenue to defray a large part of farm expenses, while, on the other hand, where attention is given to them, primarily, as the chief products of the farm, a liberal income is always assured. Sweet potatoes produce from 100 to 250 bushels per acre and average 75 cents per bushel in the home market; prices for other products are equally remunerative.

The cultivation of sugar cane and its manufacture into syrup is a feature of farming in this county and section that is exceptionally remunerative and capable of infinite development. From 500 to 800 gallons per acre is the usual yield, which readily sells in the home market at from 40 to 60 cents per

Central Art Studio

ESTABLISHED 1865

The Oldest Photographic Gallery and Art Studio in East Mississippi. High-Class Work confirms our Title to the Confidence and Patronage of a Discriminating Public. Mr. B. C. Thames, associated with Mr. W. C. Brookshire for a number of years, and one of the most

EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHERS

in the country has succeeded Mr. Brookshire as Proprietor and Manager.

Cor. 22d Ave. and 4th St., = **MERIDIAN, MISS.**

J. W. SWITZER, Manager. Wm. SWITZER, Ass't Manager.

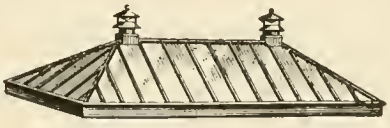
Agents For

J. W. Switzer & Son

DEALERS IN

Hardware, Stoves, Crockery, Tinware, & Housefurnishing Goods

MANUFACTURERS OF



SKY LIGHTS

Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron Ware, Tin, Iron, Slate, Paper and Gravel Roofing, Guttering, Cornice and Blow Pipe Work a Specialty.

Special Attention to all Kinds of Repairing. Evaporators Made and Repaired.

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GREETING:

I wish to thank my friends for past favors and to assure them that my Studio is still the place for High Grade Work. We furnish all the LATEST in Photography and invite inspection.

Very truly yours,

J. P. PHELPS,

2210 AND 2212 5th Street,

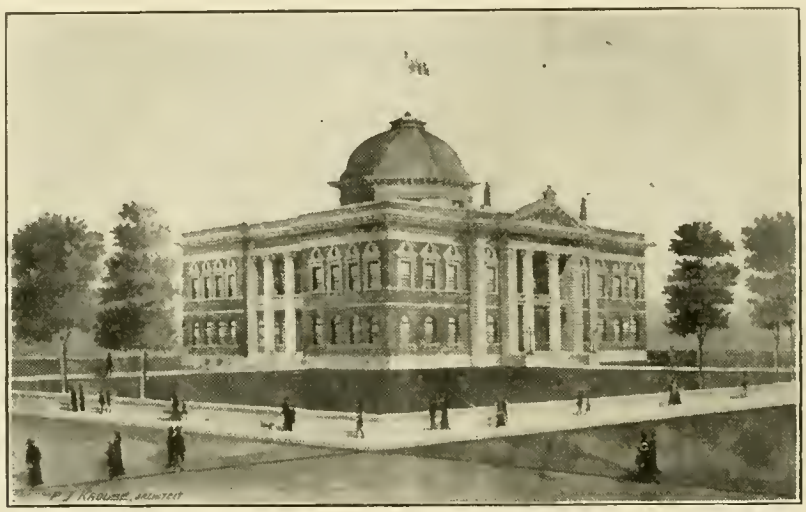
NEXT DOOR TO GRAND OPERA HOUSE. MERIDIAN, MISS.

gallon. Ten acres of land given to the growth of sugar cane in the vicinity of Meridian would render any farmer independent

Peaches, apples, pears and plums are largely grown, are rarely damaged by late cold, yield abundantly, and where attention is given to producing the better varieties good profits are realized. The Elberta peach thrives wonderfully here; while the Keiffer and Le Compte pear is grown in large quantities and sold locally at good prices. The summer apple commands a ready market at good prices, as do also the several varieties of plums that are grown. Strawberries are also profitably grown, and the local market affords a considerable latitude for the expansion of this branch of horticulture.

STOCK RAISING.

The raising of hogs and cattle, for home consumption and the market, is annually receiving more attention, as the advantages of making cotton



COUNTY COURT HOUSE,

the surplus cash crop are realized. Many farmers in Lauderdale county make all the bacon, hams and lard required for the farm use and are able to sell a considerable surplus. There is always here an active demand for these homemade hog products, they being generally esteemed better than the Western product. Local butchers buy largely of the beef cattle raised, and always pay good prices for the stock in the pasture, removing the necessity for the farmers seeking a market in town.

Throughout the county a splendid natural pasturage is found in the woods, for hogs and cattle, all the year round. The mast is abundant, and the wild cane, growing in the lowlands, along the numerous creeks and branches that water all of this section affords the best of winter pasturage for cattle, reducing the cost of their keeping during the winter months to a minimum. It is a fact that many farmers do not feed milch cows at any season of the year, where the wild cane abounds, the pasturage keeping this class of stock in good condition. As related to stock-raising, the dairying business has proved profitable wherever attention has been given to it, and there is scarcely a farmer within five miles of Meridian that does not sell more or less butter in the city.

It may be said without fear of contradiction, that few localities anywhere, today, offer a more inviting field for truck farming than may be found in the vicinity of Meridian, where the home market is never adequately supplied and where good prices for all kinds of farm and horticultural products always prevail.

HEALTH.

Situated, as before said, in the midst of the long leaf yellow pine region of the South, enjoying an abundant supply of pure spring water, the natural conditions assure a salubrity of climate and freedom from sickness enjoyed by few localities anywhere in the United States; malaria is practically unknown and the aroma arising from the pine forests, joined with the elevation above sea level, not only preclude any disposition towards pulmonary diseases, but are distinctly helpful where any tendency in this direction exists. Lauderdale county is an ideal place of residence for any one troubled with weak lungs, the balmy atmosphere proceeding from the forests yielding constantly a healing balsam.

Insure in the Merchants Union Insurance Company and keep money at home. Represented by all agents in Meridian.

REAL ESTATE TALK.

Messrs. Carter & Broach,
Real Estate Brokers.

Gentlemen:

I shall be glad to rent the cottage you offer me, as the terms are reasonable and the situation is attractive; but, before closing the trade, I must know if the house is supplied with G A S. Is there gas light in all the rooms, and can you arrange with the Meridian Gas Co. to install my Gas Range and Instantaneous Heater? If so, you may consider the trade closed.

Yours truly,
GEORGE VANDERBILT.

Threefoot Bros. & Co.,

WHOLESALE GROCERS

AND DEALERS IN

All Kinds of Vehicles. Manufacturers of Harness and Saddlery.

22nd and 23rd Aves., = = MERIDIAN, MISS.

OFFICERS:

G. W. MEYER, President - - - F. W. WILLIAMS, Vice-President
W. A. MARTIN, Cashier - - A. S. BOZEMAN, Attorney

DIRECTORS.

G. W. MEYER - - - - S. A. KLEIN
A. G. WEEMS - - - C. PHILIPS
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W. A. MARTIN - - - F. W. WILLIAMS
E. B. McRAVEN.

Steps to Wealth

are the few-inch elevations to the entrance of a Savings Bank such as this. Save and step up—step up to and into our doors; then step up in life, in comfort, in security and content. Our careful management of investments and the interest we pay tell the true story of how steps this way are steps to competence, even wealth.

SOCIAL.

Churches, schools and postoffices are interspersed at short intervals throughout the county; every farmer is within easy reach of these adjuncts of modern civilization and the fruits of these wholesome influences are broadly realized in the high standards of morals and intelligence that prevail. The dominating sentiment stands for law, order, industry and thrift. No lynching has occurred in the county within the memory of anyone living here, while the turbulence of the White Cap and similar agencies of disorder is utterly unknown. The temper of the people is distinctly conservative and all of their energies are being devoted to the nourishment and maintenance of the best standards of living along the lines of a wholesome progress and development.

The public school term is six months, and a school house is placed within the reach of every child in the county; and public opinion compels every parent to give his children the advantage of this beneficent provision. Illiteracy is practically unknown, while the educational standard is being constantly raised to correspond with a progressive intellectual requirement.

Taken altogether, it is easily demonstrable that few localities, anywhere South or West, are better prepared to meet the careful scrutiny and exhaustive investigation of the conservative home-seeker than in this. Here are found productive soils, salubrity of climate, good home markets, abundant educational facilities, high moral standards and the perfect reign of law and order; nowhere are the rewards of industry more certain; nor can capital find elsewhere a greater security combined with more liberal returns.

O. L. McKAY'S RESIDENCE.

MEYER-NEVILLE HARDWARE COMPANY
ROMANSKI CO. N.O.

HON. A. M. BYRD,
Member of Congress from the Fifth District, Mississippi.

HON. A. M. BYRD.

Hon. Adam M. Byrd, Representative in Congress from the Fifth Mississippi district, is a typical exponent and product of the influences, civil, social and material, that have dominated the post bellum South and evolved a class of strong, self-reliant, brave and capable men who are conspicuously engaged in the political and economic restoration of their section. Belonging to the soil, intensely patriotic, their ideals nourished by the traditions of the old South and their purposes animated by a resolution and courage that no difficulty can diminish or obstacle turn aside, these young men have entered the arena of every present day activity in business, in the professions, in letters and statesmanship, not to supplant the old, but to justify, supplement and strengthen it.

Mr. Byrd was born in Sumter county, Ala., July 6, 1859. When he was but eight years old, his mother removed to Neshoba county, Miss., his present home, his father having been killed in the war. His early years were spent upon the farm, as were those of most Mississippians who have attained any eminence; he attended the public schools while a boy and later entered Cooper's Institute at Daleville, an excellent college, at that time widely esteemed and patronized by those seeking a more advanced education for their sons and daughters. Completing the literary course here, Mr. Byrd entered the Columbian University at Lebannon, Tennessee, and was graduated in law from this well known institution in 1884.

Returning to his home, he began the practice of his profession, serving as Superintendent of Education of his county until 1889, when he was elected to the State Senate, where he, at once, took and maintained a foremost place. In 1895 he was returned to the lower house of the legislature, but after one year's service there he resigned to accept the office of prosecuting attorney of the 10th judicial district, by appointment of Governor A. J. McLaurin. His learning and ability as a lawyer, in the meantime, were obtaining a constantly wider recognition, and in 1897 he received the appointment of Judge of the Sixth Chancery district; at the expiration of his term in 1901, so eminently fair and satisfactory had been his administration of this important office, that upon the unanimous endorsement of the bar of his district, Judge Byrd was reappointed by Gov. Longino.

During these years in the public service his commanding abilities and wide personal popularity made him always a conspicuous figure in the political field, and when the new apportionment and redistricting of the State removed Hon. John Sharp Williams from the fifth to the eighth district, Judge Byrd was, by common consent, regarded as his logical successor, and so was chosen, without opposition, to the 58th Congress, where, during the first session, he has, in this broader arena, not only sustained his previous record and reputation, but surpassed the expectations of his most partial friends in winning new laurels as a statesman and eloquent advocate of his party's cause and the interests of his constituency.

He will be a candidate for reelection the present year and will doubtless again be chosen, without opposition, as his own successor.

Judge Byrd is a young man in the prime of physical and intellectual vigor; he has already taken his place in the ranks of the foremost of Mississippi's publicists, and his onward progress to still greater honor, influence and usefulness will be watched with pleasure and interest by the people of this city and county amongst whom he counts so many loyal friends and admirers.

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HON. G. Q. HALL,
Circuit Judge Tenth Judicial District.

JUDGE G. Q. HALL.

One of the foremost citizens of Meridian and East Mississippi is Judge G. Q. Hall, the present Circuit Judge of the tenth district. Judge Hall was elevated to the bench in August, 1900, by appointment of Gov. A. H. Longino, without application or solicitation. His career upon the bench has been eminently successful, judging by the almost universal commendation of the people of his district. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was one of the leading lawyers of this section of the State and enjoyed a large and remunerative practice, being counsel for some of the largest corporate and individual interests.

Judge Hall came to Meridian in 1884, at the invitation of the late Capt. Joel P. Walker, a prominent practitioner, and at that time president pro tem of the State Senate, with whom he formed a partnership which lasted until about 1898, when Jude Hall withdrew in order to make a place with him for his son, W. M. Hall, who was then preparing to come to the bar. Judge Hall was, for some years, a trustee of the city public schools, and vice-president of the Meridian National Bank, a strong institution, in which were interested many Eastern capitalists.

Judge Hall is also owner of the well known health and pleasure resort, Arundel Lithia Springs, located near Meridian.

MRS. E. H. HART.

A more than casual observer would, upon meeting Mrs. E. H. Hart, be surprised to learn that for twelve years she had been identified with the musical history of Meridian, so youthful, almost girlish in appearance, is she.

Her ardent devotion to this beautiful art, as well as her skill and versatility as an artist, is warmly recognized by the public, that is debtor in musical culture because of her residence here.

Mrs. Hart's skill in execution is deliberately made subservient to the higher gift of imparting her knowledge and developing the latent musical talent of others. Fortunately, in youth, her natural aptitude for music met with proper encouragement, and later the way opened for the prosecution of her studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, from which she received a teacher's certificate. In addition to the advantages offered by this institution Mrs. Hart studied piano under Sherwood and violin under Marcosson.

One of her strong points as an instructor is versatility; her role covering voice, piano, organ, violin and other stringed instruments. Her pen has even been touched with the harmonies in a booklet or storiette, of which music is the subject and was also the inspiration. She is organist at the First Presbyterian church, and for three years has been associated with the Moffat-McLaurin Institute, where her large class is proof sufficient of her popularity.

Mrs. Hart's standard of excellence is so high that despite the physical and mental weariness, incident to a term of teaching, she is still to be found, during the summer vacation at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, adding to her already full store of knowledge and acquiring a more exquisite taste and a greater skill in execution.

That a much larger measure of success than that already realized awaits Mrs. Hart her friends and admirers confidently expect.

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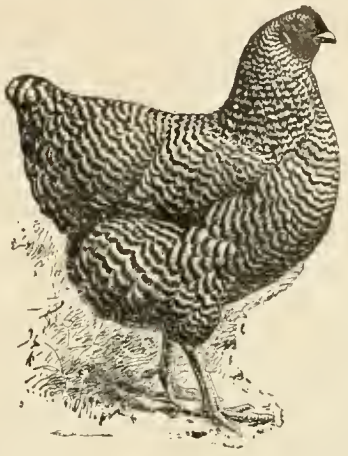

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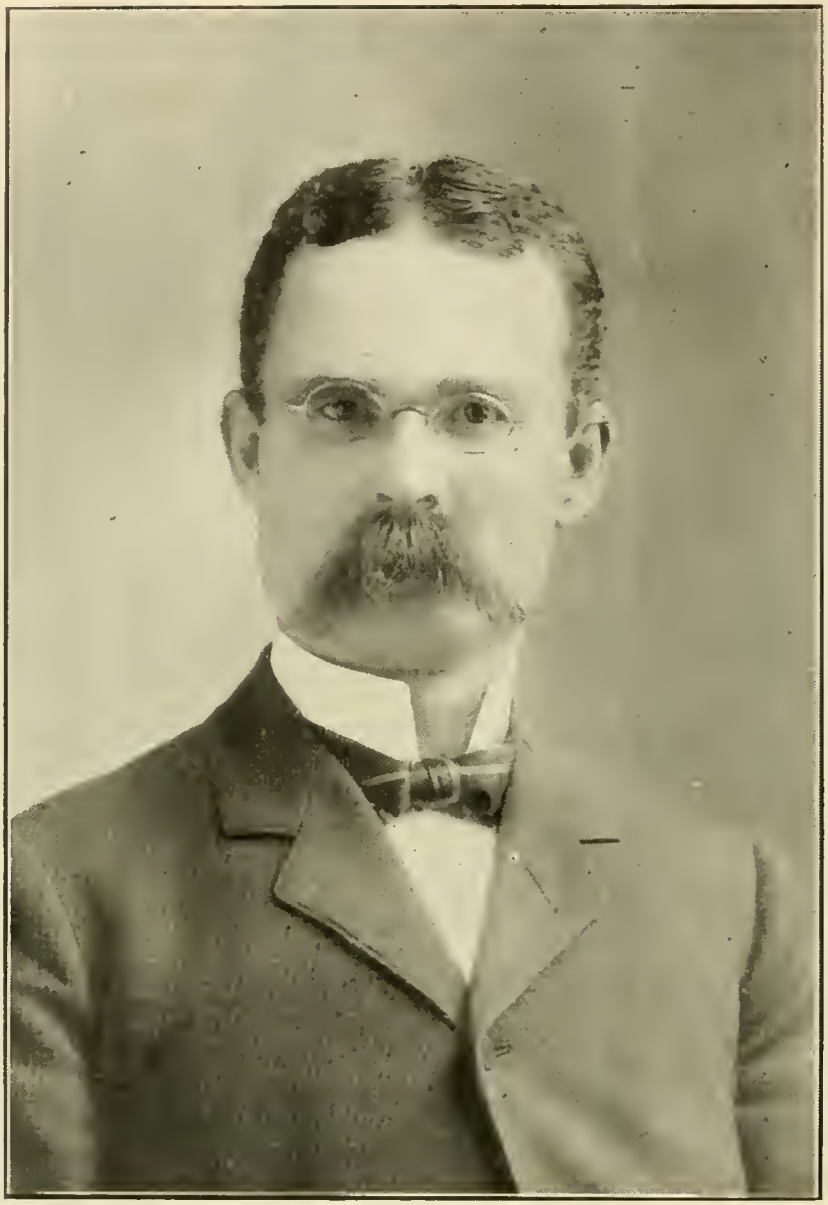

HON. R. F. COCHRAN,
Appointed Circuit Judge to Succeed Hon. G. Q. Hall.

JUDGE R. F. COCHRAN.

Hon. R. F. Cochran, appointed by Gov. Vardaman to succeed Judge G. Q. Hall, as Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial district, upon the expiration of the term of the latter, in August next, has long been one of the leading members of the Meridian bar and one of the city's prominent and useful citizens.

Judge Cochran was born in Lauderdale county, near Daleville, the son of Mr. J. H. Cochran, a large ante-bellum cotton planter, and first sheriff of the county; he was reared on his father's plantation, attending the schools of the neighborhood until advanced to the college age when he entered Cooper's Institute at Daleville where he was graduated. Soon after leaving college he married and began life as a farmer; but his active mind and native inclinations led him to seek the arena of intellectual activity that the profession of the law afforded, and so, after marriage, he went to the University of Mississippi where he was graduated in the law department, the valedictorian of the class of 1884–85. He opened, at once, an office in Meridian and began the practice of his profession in competition with one of the strongest bars in Mississippi. His native talents, supplemented by diligence and faithfulness to the interests of clients, soon won for him a conspicuous place in the profession, bringing a large and lucrative practice.

Mr. Cochran has filled the offices of city and county attorney, and in the former capacity framed and secured the passage, by the legislature, of the acts authorizing the issuance by the city of the sewerage, street and sidewalk bonds. Always taking an active interest in politics, although, himself, never a candidate for any office, in 1896 he was chosen a delegate to the National Democratic convention that nominated Bryan. During the last campaign, in this State, he was the recognized local leader of the Money and Vardeman forces, and the success of these candidates in Lauderdale county is due to his zealous and intelligent work in their behalf.

Judge Cochran has been twice married, and his present home in Meridian, enriched by the benign presence of a gentle, gracious and cultivated wife and mother, surrounded by three little children, is as charming in its inward beauty as it is attractive in its outward aspects. Judge Cochran will enter upon the responsible duties of his judicial office, with the abundant good will and confidence of his brethren of the bar, and with a steadfast determination to supplement his successful career as a lawyer, with a record for righteousness upon the bench, that will justify the estimate of his qualifications that induced Governor Vardaman to choose him for so great an honor and trust.

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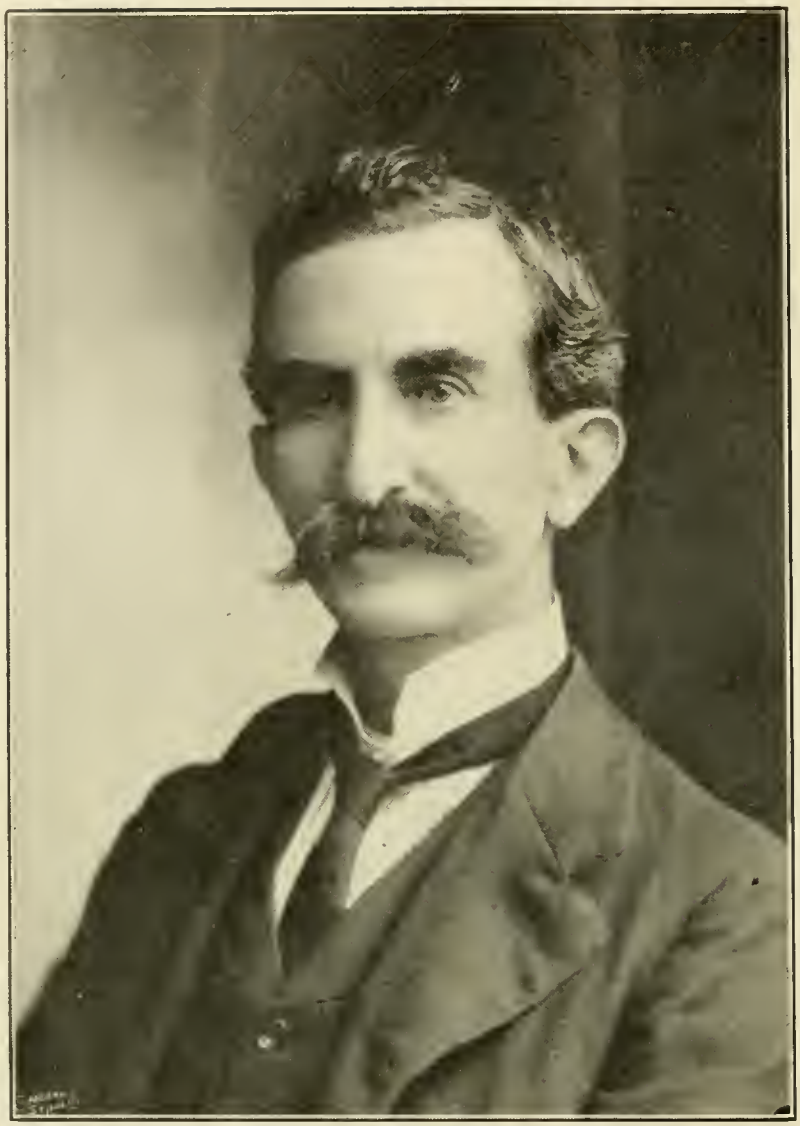


HON. J. H. CURRIE,
District Attorney Tenth Judicial District.

HON. J. H. CURRIE.

Hon. J. H. Currie, the learned lawyer and able prosecuting attorney of the 10th judicial district, is deservedly one of the most popular men in East Mississippi and has a right to contemplate a future of increasing honors and achievement.

Born in Kemper county in 1856, he received his rudimentary education in the old time country schools, which atoned for any limitations of curriculum in a thoroughness that made a firm foundation for whatever educational embellishment might be superadded in later years; and Mr. Currie's intellectual qualities today bear striking testimony to the excellence of that substantial ground-work. He, later, had the advantage of instruction from the celebrated M. C. Day, one of the distinguished scholars and educators of his time; then went to Cooper's Institute, near Daleville, this county, where he was graduated in June, 1878.

Mr. Currie's first entrance into the arena of politics was in 1880, when, after one of the most hotly contested campaigns that his county had ever known, he was elected to the legislature. In the meantime he engaged in teaching and occupied his leisure in reading law; was admitted to the bar in 1884, and won, almost at once, a conspicuous place as a criminal lawyer. While practicing his profession he was chosen superintendent of public education of his county, the duties of which office he discharged for four years with distinguished zeal and ability. His resourcefulness, his diligence and splendid oratorical powers bringing him a constantly increasing clientage, he was soon compelled to devote his entire time to his profession, and for the next dozen years no criminal case of importance was tried in Kemper county that he was not engaged in. He was one of the attorneys for the defense in the celebrated Lipscomb case, that attracted attention all over the country; and his conduct of this complicated cause, through several years, won for him a still wider reputation; opposed, as he was, by the best legal talent that rich and powerful insurance companies could command for the prosecution.

In July, 1899, Mr. Currie announced his candidacy for District Attorney of the 10th judicial district, being opposed by the then capable incumbent and another able and popular lawyer of Meridian. The campaign that ensued was a memorable one, enlisting the interest of every voter in the five counties that make the district. He was elected and entered upon the duties of his office January following, which he discharged so well and faithfully that he was re-elected to succeed himself at the expiration of his term in 1903. Since his last election, Mr. Currie has moved his residence from Kemper county to Meridian, where he and his family are general social favorites.

With a good knowledge of the law, a broad culture, a wide reading of the best literature, supplemented by native talents of exceptional strength, backed by energy and courage, Mr. Currie is, through natural gifts and training, most admirably equipped for that branch of the law in which he has made so pronounced a success, and is recognized as one of the foremost criminal lawyers of the Mississippi bar. As a man and a citizen, he is genial in his social relations, faithful to his obligations and a good citizen, enjoying the respect and esteem of those who know him as neighbor and friend.

HON. W. D. CAMERON,
Circuit Clerk Lauderdale County.

GEN. W. D. CAMERON.

Gen. William D. Cameron, the best known man in this section, and one of the foremost men of Mississippi, was born on a farm near Alamucha, this county, in 1846. He attended the neighborhood schools until the beginning of the war between the States, when, although but a boy in years, he put on the uniform of a Confederate soldier and remained upon the firing line until the end of hostilities in 1865. Returning home after the surrender, he engaged in farming until 1871, when he came to Meridian to act as deputy chancery clerk. He was elected circuit clerk in 1875, and has been re-elected for eight consecutive terms, an honor significant of the esteem in which he is held by those amongst whom he was born and has always lived. This honor, however, has been earned by a devoted and patriotic service of his people, by loyalty to friends, steadfastness in duty doing, and a broad human sympathy that knows no metes nor bounds.

During the midnight of Reconstruction he was in the front rank of those who struggled against fearful odds to rescue their land, their civilization and social order from the withering grasp of the venal carpetbagger and ignorant negro, who, when this task was completed, turned to help in the restoration of civil order and material prosperity, and day by day, through these years, has done his duty well and manfully in public life and private relation. Honors have come to Gen. Cameron in every field that he has entered; his strength of character and personal magnetism have drawn men to him in every relation of life. Twice he has been chosen by his comrades of the sixties Major General, commanding the Mississippi division U. C. V. He is a Colonel of the Uniform rank Knights of Pythias, a Past Chancellor of the same order, and twice chosen Supreme Representative. He is also a conspicuous member of other orders, being a Knight Templar and Shriner, an Odd-Fellow, Woodman of the World, a member of the A. O. U. W., Red Men, Columbian Woodmen and B. P. O. E., having filled in each of these orders posts of the first honor and trust.

Always a loyal and steadfast Democrat, Gen. Cameron was chosen a delegate at large to the National Convention of his party at Kansas City in 1900, and again is a delegate to the convention of 1904. He has always exercised a considerable influence in State politics, his counsels largely influencing the attitude of his party at critical periods in its history.

Mr. Cameron was first married to Miss Maggie Mays, of Holmes county, who died in 1896, survived by three children, Charles, Elleine and Willie. He subsequently married Miss Rosa Lipsay, of the same county, who, today illumines his home life with every grace and charm that belongs to good and tender womanhood. By faith, a "blue stocking" Presbyterian, he is President of the Board of Deacons of his church and exercises a wholesome influence in his church relationship.

Of General Cameron it may be said that his career typifies the best in our Southern public life and politics. He has stood erect and never cringed or fawned for favor; he has always had convictions and the courage to contend

for them; he has been in the front of the battle and never made a compromise of principle to secure a vote; he knows nothing of political duplicity or the sharp practices of the professional politician. In private life he is clean, upright, gentle and brave. He is the most generous of men, a good citizen and a Christian gentleman. He is a type of the men who have restored the old South to her former prestige, wealth and beauty; and the South will continue to honor this kind.

HON. C. C. DUNN.

Hon. C. C. Dunn, Senator from Lauderdale county, illustrates in his career and personality the opportunities and possibilities that Mississippi yields for the young man who really wants to accomplish something.

Mr. Dunn was born in Amite county in 1871. His early years were spent upon the farm and he enjoyed only such educational opportunities as the county schools afforded; as a young man, pursuing the vocation of a farmer, he utilized such leisure as he found in reading law; he came to Meridian in 1890, and in 1892 was admitted to the bar, where his diligence, application, skill and learning soon won a recognition that is not readily acquired by young men launched in the midst of such competition as the bar of Meridian yields. In 1898 he formed a copartnership with Mr. A. B. Amis, and the firm now ranks with the well known law firms of the district.

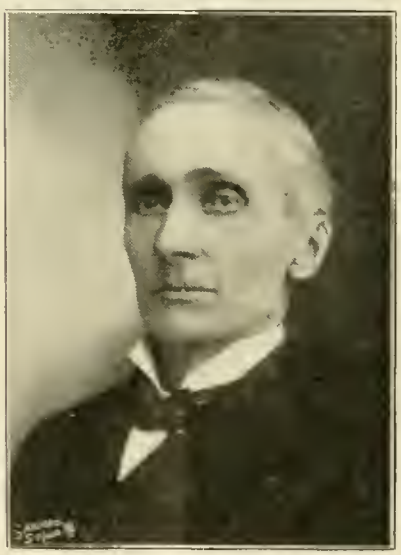
In 1899 Mr. Dunn became a candidate for the State Senate against the then incumbent, Capt. W. H. Hardy, one of the ablest debaters and stump speakers in Mississippi. That campaign is a memorable one in Lauderdale county, with the State senatorship the central and conspicuous figure in the contest; people flocked to the hustings where the aspirants met in joint debate, where the stripling and the veteran contended for honors, and when the victory came to the younger man he accepted it with a modesty that won the unstinted praise of those who had lately so vigorously opposed him. His four year's service in the Senate so justified the expectations of his friends and disappointed his opponents, that when the time came, a year ago, for another election, no one cared to oppose him and he was re-elected unanimously. Mr. Dunn is only 33 years old, and has already made a record and a reputation that men rarely achieve before middle life, and the promise of his youth bids fair to develop into a fruition that will demonstrate, again, the value of the farm schooling and training in the equipment of the strong and useful men of our State.

HON. C. C. DUNN,
Senator From Lauderdale County.

CAPT. S. B. WATTS.

Conspicuous among the men who have won an enviable place in the confidence and regard of those amongst whom their lives have been passed, stands Hon. S. B. Watts, Representative of Meridian in the State Legislature, and every honor that has come to him has been worthily won in a service singularly free from self-seeking, but guided always by a high sense of honor and duty doing in the broader avenues of living.

Capt. Watts was born at Garlandsville, Jasper county, Mississippi, 1843, the son of Sam'l B. Watts and Mary A. Mayers. His early boyhood years were spent in Smith county and later at Brandon, where the beginning of the war between the States found him in 1861; he promptly enlisted in the first company that was formed in his home county and followed the stars and bars through all of the battles of the army of Tennessee, from Shiloh to Franklin, rising, through regular promotions, from the post of private to the rank of Captain at the age of 21. He was taken prisoner on the breastworks at Franklin, Tenn., surrendering his sword to Capt. S.



HON. S. B. WATTS,
Representative City of Meridian.

M. Knapp of the 104th Ohio regiment, whose daughter, then living near Canton, Ohio, returned it in 1886.

Returning home after the surrender Capt. Watts read law with his uncle, the late Judge John

Watts, and began the practice of his profession at Meridian in 1867, a member of the firm of Steele, Watts and Watts. He was married in 1868 to Miss Kate McLaurin, of Rankin county, whose father was Judge John McLaurin, formerly of Covington county, Miss. In 1867 he was appointed a Commissioner of the United States Court by Judge Hill, and subsequently reappointed by Judge Niles, which office he holds at present. He was, for several years, deputy clerk of the United States Court, having charge of the office at Meridian. In 1877 he was elected a councilman of the city and was chosen to the State Senate in 1891, winning a foremost place in that body of able men. In 1903 Captain Watts was chosen to represent the city of Meridian in the lower house of the legislature, the first term of service being at the beginning of this year.

An Odd Fellow, and member of the Woodmen of the World, American Guild, Ancient Essenic Order, Knights of Honor and Knights and Ladies of Honor, he has taken a prominent place in fraternal work, being a member for a number of years of the Supreme Lodges of the K. of H. and the K. & L. of H., chairman of the Law Committee of the former and the Appeals and Grievance Committee of the latter. A consistent Methodist, he has been a member of four general conferences of that church.

Capt. Watt's life has been a busy and useful one, and that it has been a successful one, in the best sense, is attested by the respect and esteem in which he is held by the people amongst whom he has lived for nearly forty years.

HON. W. R. DENTON.

There are few members in either house of the Mississippi legislature that can boast of a longer consecutive service of the same

HON. W. R. DENTON,
Representative County at Large.

constituency than W. R. Denton of Lauderdale; and none can show a fairer record for intelligent, unselfish and conscientious devotion to the interests of his State and the people whom he has represented, since 1890, in the lower house.

Hon. W. R. Denton is a native of Lauderdale county. Born on his father's farm, near Daleville, in 1847, his early years were spent in that nursery of strong and virile manhood which has yielded for Mississippi's service so many useful sons and citizens; the farm was the source of his physical and intellectual nurture during his early years, supplemented by such instruction as the country schools of the period yielded. Determined, however, to take advantage of every opportunity for mental improvement that was afforded, Mr. Denton, after maturity, attended Cooper's Institute and profited by the instruction of that most excellent school.

Pursuing the vocation of a farmer, Mr. Denton was elected constable of his beat in 1882, and four years later was chosen magistrate, which office he filled until elected to the legislature, in 1890, as representative from the county at-large, which place he has filled with honor to himself and advantage to his people ever since; being re-elected at each quadrennial election since then; the last time without opposition. As a legislator he belongs to the conservative element in our politics, and is always found upon the right side of every question calculated to advance the prosperity and well being of his State; he takes no part in petty factional fights, but reserves all of his strength and influence for the larger employments of the lawmaker, and this characteristic is one that has assured his long continuance in the field of usefulness that he occupies.

Mr. Denton is a Mason and Woodman of the World, in both of which orders he occupies high places. A consistent member of the Presbyterian church, in private life, as well as in public station, he commands, in an eminent degree, the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens in town and country alike, while his genial temper and cheerful disposition, joined to a fine sense of loyalty, bind his friends to him with bonds of steel.

MISS LELYA M. CHISHOLM.

Among not "the coming" young women, born to a successful musical career, but even now, and here, the well known teacher, in

spite of youth, is found in Miss Lelya M. Chisholm, residing with her mother on 35th avenue.

With a decided talent for music and drawing, she chose to develop the former with a view to becoming a teacher of the piano forte, a resolve that her great and persistent application enabled her easily to accomplish, as the teacher's certificate that she holds, taken in a teachers' training class, under Prof. Conrad, that eminent artist, abundantly proves.

But certificates of proficiency do not always prove the undoubted key to success, since to know is one thing and how to impart knowledge is another and prime requisite of a teacher; a requisite that Miss Chisholm's four years of experience, together with her class of 40 pupils, furnishes ample testimony.

If Miss Chisholm is to be criticised, it is for a virtue pushed to an extreme, that of untiring energy and reckless expenditure of self in the pursuit of her vocation, a pardonable fault, due to youth and over-conscientiousness, but, for the sake of herself and her art, to be struggled against and conquered.

A recent public musical, given by Miss Chisholm's large class, reflected great credit on the instructor and added to her already well earned laurels.

THE SOUTHERN BANK.

Conspicuous among the institutions that mark the substantial growth and commercial development of Meridian, during recent years, stands the Southern Bank, strictly a home enterprise, born out of conditions and influences that were the product of the city's steady progress. In 1898 Mr. F. C. McGhee recognized here an opportunity for the successful establishment of a State bank of modest proportions, and enlisting the interest and co-operation of other business men of the city, the Southern was organized and began business at the corner of Fourth street and 23rd avenue in November of that year.

The character of the men identified with the new undertaking, the personel of its officers and directorate at once commanded the confidence of the public and the success of the bank was assured from the first day that its doors were opened; a generous line of deposits began, at once, to flow towards its vaults and the good will of the business public was manifested in a liberal patronage, speedily demonstrating that the new bank filled a real need in the city's commercial and financial economy.

Beginning with modest resources, the capital stock was soon increased to $50,000, and the field of its operations was constantly broadened as its patrons multiplied and its deposits increased. Conservative in its management, yet liberal in its treatment of customers, each month of life recorded a greater growth until the Southern is today regarded as one of the strong, fixed and permanent institutions of the city, useful and influential in all of its commercial and industrial activities.

COL. W. G. STEVENSON,

"The Children's Friend," who is the most conspicuous exponent of the Educational idea in City and County.

A savings department was added to the bank's equipment about two years ago, four per cent. interest being allowed on deposits of this character; and the public confidence in the strength and stability of the Southern is abundantly testified in the liberal patronage that has been accorded this department of its business. The officers and directors of the Soutnern Bank are all representative citizens of Meridian, as follows: Officers: F. C. McGhee, President; B. J. Carter, Vice-President; J. C. Rushing, Cashier. Directors: T. E. Rivers, Dr. M. J. Lowry, H. F. Broach, Jr., S. J. Ferguson, B. J. Carter, J. M. McBeath, Frank C. McGhee and J. C. Rushing.

MRS. JAYNE SPINKS MALONE.

No music teacher in Meridian is so thoroughly identified with the city as Mrs. Jayne Spinks Malone, who, though far from being what is regarded as old in

MRS. JAYNE SPINKS MALONE.

years, and certainly not in spirits, was a pioneer in her art, having here, for 30 years, successfully pursued her beloved profession.

Eight years of this time she spent in college work and five in Central High school, followed by the organization of a private class, which plan still commends itself to her judgment.

Mrs. Malone has inherited talent for music, this taste manifesting itself in early childhood, and the ability to make melody being noted before thought voiced itself in speech.

The even more lovely traits of character, cheerfulness and self-sacrifice, if not inherited have at least been acquired, so lavishly has she, during her entire public career, served the people of Meridian.

For 25 years she has filled the position of organist of the Central M. E. church and still serves acceptably, having kept time to the later demands of the church in procuring a pipe organ, by studying under the world renowned organist, Clarence Eddy.

But, without regard to sect, Mrs. Malone has freely given her service to promote every good cause, when her effort in organizing and training choirs was essentially necessary to the success of a meeting or entertainment.

Not simply as a pioneer is Mrs. Malone's work deserving of mention, for she has, by reading and practical study under the finest instructors, kept step with the progress of her art, having, it is said, the best musical library in the city and spending seasons of study in Chicago, the late Dr. Karl Merz, former editor of the Musical World, being one of her teachers.

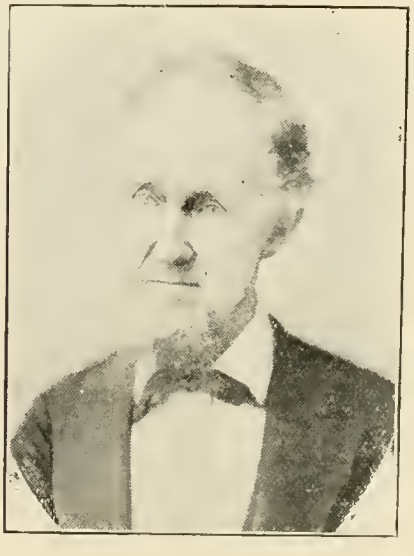
Her versatility as a teacher is well known, embracing the piano forte, guitar, violincello and maudolin.

In the truest sense of the word Mrs. Malone is, by birth, education and calling, a gentle woman, and her life has ever told, through her art and character, for the elevation of mankind.

THE PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK.

The People's Savings Bank was organized by leading business men of Meridian in response to a positive need for such an institution in the city's economy. There were hundreds of wage-earners here who really needed such an institution for the safe and profitable investment of their surplus earnings, and there were many others, especially young men and women, who found in such a bank an inducement and encouragement to form habits of systematic saving of a part of their incomes; a spirit of thriftiness was thereby inculcated no less for their individual good than for the good of the community.

From the very beginning, the character and financial strength of the men at the head of the undertaking assured its success. The public had perfect confidence that money entrusted to such keeping was absolutely safe, from any perils of mismanagement on the part of officers of the bank, whose names were the synonyms of personal integrity and conservative business capac-



JOHN T. BALL,
Founder of Meridian.

ity; and as a result the volume of deposits was generous from the very beginning, and constantly increasing until the People's Savings Bank, today, occupies an enviable place in the city's financial and business equipment.

HON. J. H. RIVERS,

Mayor of Meridian.

HON. J. H. RIVERS.

Long service upon the municipal boards, intimate identification with every interest of the city and active and intelligent participation in the civic development of Meridian, its government and its material advancement, through some twenty years of active service in official place or private station, seem to have found their logical sequence in 1902, when J. H. Rivers was called to the office of Mayor, over two strong and popular opponents; and it may be said that his election was due directly to his strong, earnest and consistent advocacy of the principle of municipal ownership of the water supply and service of the city.

Mr. Rivers is another example of the strength and virility of the country bred boy transplanted to town, a class that has contributed so largely to Meridian's substantial upbuilding. Born in Marengo county, Alabama, he removed with his parents to Lauderdale county when but eight years old. Mr. Rivers' early years were spent upon the farm, where were laid the foundations of that splendid and virile manhood that he enjoys; he attended the neighborhood schools of his time, when not engaged in farm duties, and arriving at maturity, came to Meridian where he engaged in railroad work, soon being entrusted with important and responsible positions in the physical maintenance and construction departments. Making his permanent home in this city, he early took an active interest in municipal affairs, being repeatedly elected and re-elected to the offices of both councilman and alderman, in both of which capacities he was always conspicuous for his loyal adherence to the interests of his constituents and the public welfare, when they seemed at variance with those of private corporations. Strong in his advocacy of any cause that he espoused, determined, yet courteous, in maintaining his position, a man of convictions and the courage to contend for them. Mr. Rivers took and kept a conspicuous place in the government of the city through the period of its greatest growth and development; and so, when he came to offer for the chief magistracy of the city, he had made a record with which his fellow citizens were familiar, and nobody could have any doubt where he stood upon any question relating to municipal affairs; he made the race for the mayoralty squarely upon this record and was justified in the endorsement of his fellow citizens.

In his administration of the important office that he has filled since January, 1903, Mr. Rivers has confirmed the expectations of his friends and loyally lived up to every pre-election pledge, and confidently points to this record of service to justify his candidature for re-election.

Mayor Rivers is a man of great personal magnetism; big hearted and generous, he makes friends and keeps them; upright and conscientious he possesses the unqualified confidence of all who know him, and both as citizen and official he is esteemed and honored by the people amongst whom he has lived for a quarter of a century.

JAMES E. WATTS.

Conspicuous among the useful citizens of Meridian, useful in public and private life and influential for good in every civic and social relation, stands James E. Watts, member of the Board of Aldermen from the first ward.

Mr. Watts was born in this city in 1866, and, with one or two exceptions, is the oldest native resident of Meridian. He received his early education here, and here

JAMES E. WATTS,
Member Board of Aldermen, Ward One.

began his business career; he has grown with the city of his birth and strengthened with her strength, becoming so identified with her business, social and civic life as to be a type of that citizenry that is confidently relied upon to build, always, for a greater and better Meridian.

While Mr. Watts' insurance business, embracing fire, life and accident insurance, is large he has yet found time for those social duties and obligations that broaden life and deepen human sympathies. Prominent in fraternal work, being a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Woodmen of the World, and other fraternal organizations, he has been particularly conspicuous as a Woodman, being today Head Consul of that organization in Mississippi, a place of honor and responsibility that only men of exceptional worth are called to fill.

Active in church work, he has been, for a number of years, a steward and superintendent of the Sunday School in the East End Methodist church. S rved for a long period as member of the Board of Trustees of the East Mississippi Female College, and is today a member of the Boards of Trustees of both the Meridian Male and Meridian Female colleges.

Elected four years ago to the Board of Aldermen, Mr. Watts became at once a strong and influential factor in municipal government; he brought to the public service the same intelligence, conscientiousness and deligence that gave him eminence in other relationships, and every movement in behalf of the common welfare and betterment of public utilities has enlisted his zealous and effective support. He set a high standard of public service and has religiously lived up to it. As member of the Street, Police and Purchasing committees, his work has redounded greatly to the advantage of the city; but as a member of the Water Committee, appointed to procure a better supply and service in this all important department of public works, Mr. Watts has performed a public service that will entitle him to the appreciative recognition of the people of Meridian for many years to come. He stood firmly and uncompromisingly for municipal ownership of the water supply and service of the city, and it was due to his initiative and persistent endeavor in this behalf, that this department of our public service is so greatly improved today.

J. E. Watts is not only a good and useful citizen, a high minded christian gentleman, but he is an active and influential agency for good in the conduct of municipal affairs.

W. E. JONES.

Mr. W. E. Jones, Alderman from the Fourth city ward, is an exponent of a class of young business men who contribute very largely to the strength and integrity of Meridian's civic commercial and social structure; men whose character and intelligence and public spirit are relied upon to continue the good work begun by their fathers, constantly improving and strengthening the fabric.

Mr. Jones was born in Starkville, Miss., in 1867, the son of Rev. Ransom J. Jones, one of the strongest and most useful minis-

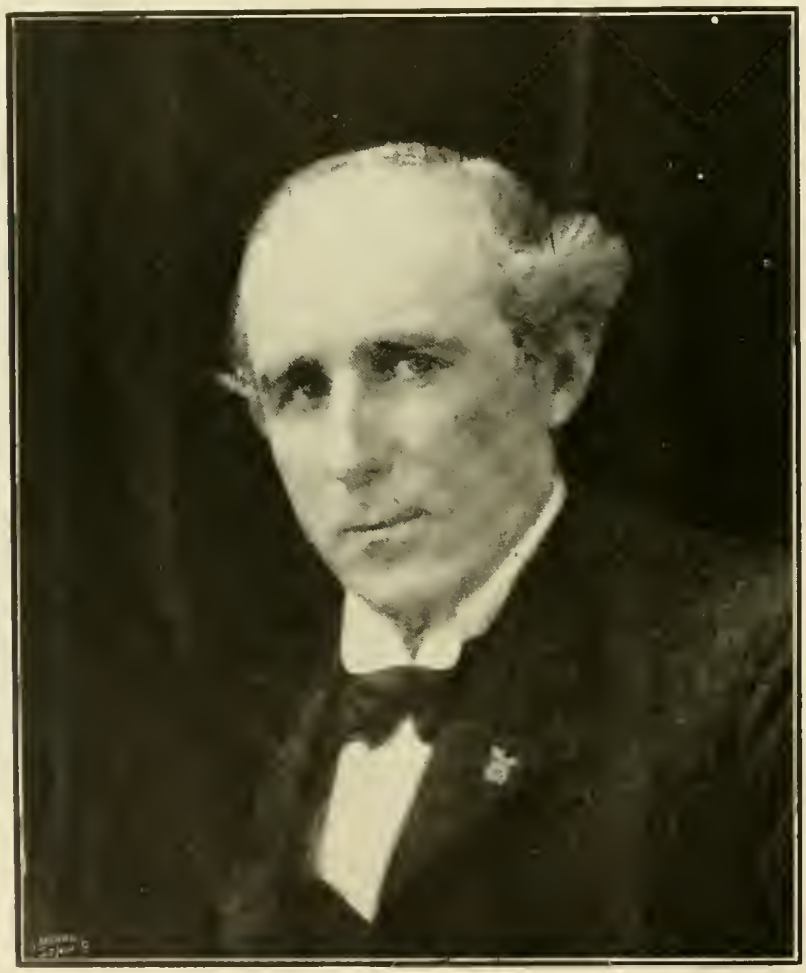
W. E. JONES,
Member Board of Aldermen, Ward Four.

ters of the Methodist church of Mississippi, and for a number of years presiding elder of this district. He removed to Meridian with his parents in December, 1785, and was educated in the

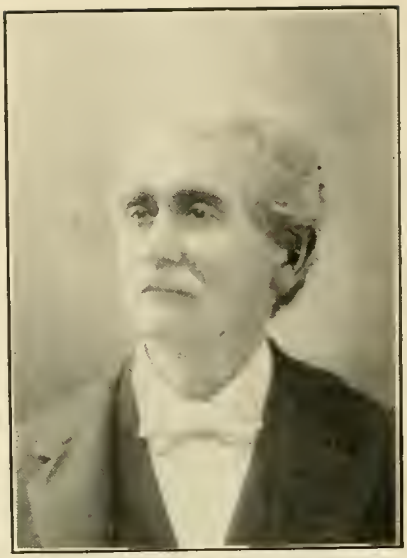
public schools of this city. He began his business career in 1886 in the employ of W. G. Casteel; a year later formed a connection with the large and important firm of Marks, Rothenberg & Co., where his application, diligence and strict integrity soon won recognition, and he was rapidly promoted from one post of trust and responsibility to another, until today he fills the highly responsible place of credit man for the largest commercial house in the State.

In 1898 Gov. McLaurin appointed Mr. Jones member of the Board of Trustees of the East Mississippi Hospital for the Insane; he was reappointed by Gov. Longino in 1900 to the same place which he filled creditably until the expiration of his term at the beginning of the present year.

He was elected a member of the Board of Aldermen in December, 1902, and assumed the duties of the office in January following. He has brought to the service of the municipal government the same qualities that distinguished his character and conduct in other fields of labor and which mark him a zealous, faithful and accomplished public servant, deserving and enjoying the respect of his colleagues as well as the unqualified confidence of his constituents and fellow citizens.



A. A. KINCANNON, M. A.,
President of the State Industrial Institute and College for Girls at Columbus, Miss., who Inaugurated and Placed on a Permanent Foundation Meridian's Famous Public School System.



DR. E. E. SPINKS,
Member Board of Aldermen, Ward Two.

DR. E. E. SPINKS.

Meridian is indebted to Kemper county for generous contributions of her best stock in the making of a city here; but amongst the great number of good and useful citizens that she has lent to this cause, none is more highly valued than the upright gentleman, Confederate veteran and patriotic Mississippian, Dr. E. E. Spinks, whose long residence here has been one of almost continuous useful and unselfish public service.

Dr. Spinks was born in Kemper county, receiving his early education at the country schools of his neighborhood. At the outbreak of the war between the States, although but a boy, in years, he enlisted as a private, and was early promoted to a Lieutenant of Company A, 35th Mississippi cavalry. Returning home, after the surrender, he bravely took his place in the ranks of those engaged in the rehabilitation of their desolated homes, and loyally did his part in that ordeal of reconstruction which was a severer test of the manly virtues than, even, war exacted.

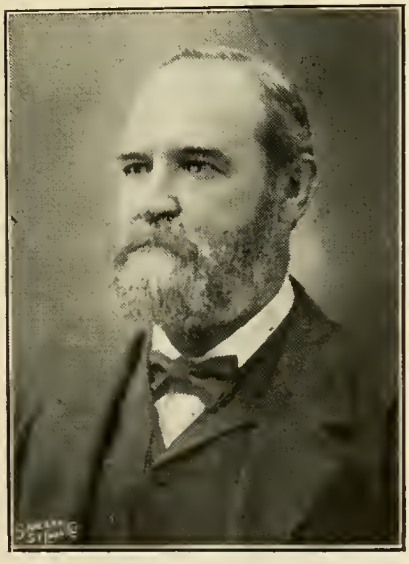
In 1871, Dr. Spinks came to

Meridian and engaged in the practice of his profession of dentistry. He speedily took a foremost place among the good citizens of the, then, embryonic town, which prominence he has held through the years of Meridian's growth, constantly strengthening his hold upon the respect, esteem and confidence of his people.

Dr. Spinks served the educational interests of the city wisely and well for twelve years, as member of the board of School Trustees; was a member of the city council for eight years and crowned these terms of honorable public service with two years of usefulness in the chief magistracy of the city, from 1901 to 1903. He is at present a most valued member of the Board of Aldermen, where he is likely to remain as long as he will consent to serve.

A. W. MASHBURN.

There is scarcely a community in the South that is not strengthened by some contribution to its good citizenry from the Empire State. Meridian acknowledges, with satisfaction, her indebtedness in this respect; and not the least useful of the Georgians who



A. W. MASHBURN,
Member Board of Aldermen, Ward Three.

have made their homes here, is Mr. A. W. Mashburn, alderman from the third ward.

Mr. Mashburn was born in Forsythe county, Georgia; his early years were spent upon the farm, where he enjoyed such educational advantages as the rural schools afforded. The war between the States found him a mere boy, in years and strength, but he shouldered his gun, along with his elders, in behalf of a cause that was sacred to Southerners, and did his duty, at the front, until the close of hostilities. The years succeeding the war were active and busy ones; and in 1890, Mr. Mashburn removed to Meridian, with his family, and became the manager of the Meridian Fertilizer Company, one of Meridian's most extensive industrial enterprises. His high character, intelligence and splendid business capacity, four years ago, induced his neighbors and friends to choose him as their representative upon the Board of Aldermen, where he has abundantly vindicated that choice in a record full of usefulness to the city and honor to himself.

Mr. Mashburn has brought to the city's service those qualities that have made for success in his business career; and no member of either board exercises a larger influence than does he in the determination of any matter relating to the city's welfare; because all have perfect confidence in his patriotic purpose, his unselfishness and sound judgment.

As chairman of the special Water Committee, Mr. Mashburn's labors in behalf of the people of Meridian, in this all important contention, will always be remembered with grateful appreciation; for this has been the people's battle against a monopoly strongly entrenched and correspondingly defiant.

The people of his ward have insisted that Mr. Mashburn shall serve them for another term and have announced his candidacy for re-election at the approaching primaries. It may, here, be added that Mr. Mashburn has been frequently urged to permit the use of his name for the Mayoralty; but has steadfastly declined this honor, on account of his private business engagements.

W. B. HAWKINS.

Mr. W. B. Hawkins is another example of the business man who brings to the service of the municipality the advantage of sound judgment, large experience and strength of character in guiding and administering the affairs of the city; and it is due to the presence of such men upon her municipal boards that Meridian's growth and development have been largely speeded.

Mr. Hawkins came to Mississippi in 1850 from Fayetteville, N. C., the place of his birth. He engaged in planting in Panola

W. B. HAWKINS,
Member Board of Aldermen, Ward Five.

county and pursued successfully this vocation, until he was induced, by his sons, who had removed to Meridian, to come hither, in 1891, and make his home in the best town in the State.

Of a strong personality, courteous demeanor and genial temperament, he was not long in making friends, in his new home, and at once became identified with the activities, business and social, of the home of his adoption. Engaging in business on the South Side, he was soon recognized as one of the strong men of that part of the city, and his neighbors naturally selected him to represent them on the Board of Aldermen, where, for four years, he has faithfully discharged every commission given him, in the interest of his constituency, as well as the general welfare of the city; which faithful and useful service will doubtless be recognized in a re-election this year.

As a member of the Finance, Market, Sewer and other important committees, Mr. Hawkins' sound business sense has been of great value in the direction of the business affairs of the municipality, and he justly enjoys the respect and confidence of his coworkers on the city Boards.

HON. E. H. DIAL,

Mayor of Meridian from 1893 to 1901, who builded with heart, brain and conscience for his City's permanent betterment, along high lines of civic, social and material development.

HON. W. E. BASKIN,
Attorney, City of Meridian.

HON. W. E. BASKIN.

Dignity of character is, perhaps, the highest attribute of a man, and this characteristic eminently belongs to Mr. W. E. Baskin, who, in every public and private relation, evinces those qualities of manliness that are associated with men of the higher types.

Mr. Baskin was born in Green county, Alabama, and removed, with his father's family, to Chickasaw county, this State, shortly prior to the war between the States. His father's life paid the debt of patriotism on the battle field, and the boy grew to manhood without the paternal guidance and counsel. His early education was received at the country schools, later, supplemented by attendance at the Summerville Institute where, under the inspiring tuition of the famous Thos. S. Gathright, his education was completed. After leaving school, he read law and began practice at Okolona, where he met with such success that he was induced to seek a wider field; and coming to Meridian in 1888, formed a copartnership with Mr. C. C. Miller.

Since his residence in Meridian, Mr. Baskin has been active and conspicuous in useful labors. As President of the Board of School Trustees, of which he has been a member, with a brief intermission since 1889, he has been the zealous friend and guardian of the city's educational interests; as Trustee of the State University, he faithfully discharged this honorable and responsible trust; as chairman of the County Democratic Executive Committee, he has labored for unity and harmony in party councils; as an Elder of the Presbyterian church, he has been useful and influential for good; but Mr. Baskin's best work for this community has been the long, arduous and uncompromising battle that, as City Attorney, he has fought and won for his people against the water works monopoly. To this he gave the best that is in him of heart, brain and conscience, and without respect to the righteousness of his cause, his labors deserved the success that has thus far attended them in this litigation.

A. W. MALONE,
A Pioneer Citizen of 1859.

G. M. HEISS.

Coming to Meridian in 1867, Mr. G. M. Heiss' mature life and career may be said to be coincident with the life of Meridian, which makes singularly fitting and appropriate his place of President of the Board of Councilmen in the municipal government; for no man knows the city better than he; none cherishes its institutions more closely and none has been more loyal and unselfish in contributing to its growth and development along right lines.

G. M. HEISS,
Councilman, Ward One.

Mr. Heiss' early boyhood was spent with his parents in New Orleans, La., where he received his early education. A mere stripling, in 1862, he donned the Confederate uniform and served the cause of the South with the army of Tennessee until he was paroled at Meridian in 1865. He came to reside in this city in 1867, taking a position as operator in the Western Union telegraph service, which he filled until 1882, when he resigned to engage in other business. In 1885 he established the book and stationery business, which is still conducted under the firm name of G. M. Heiss & Sons, one of the leading concerns of its kind in the State.

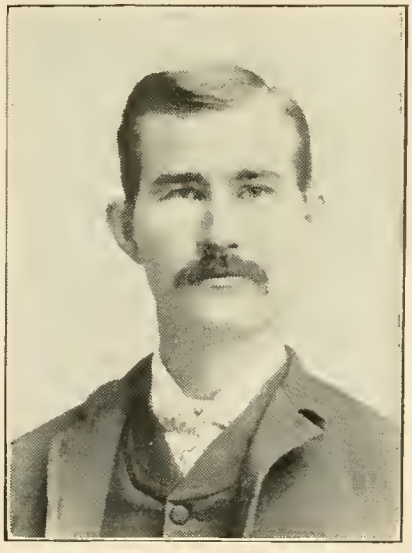
In the meantime, Mr. Heiss was chosen in 1876 to the office of city clerk, filling that responsible office through repeated re-elections for ten years to 1886. Mr. Heiss was chosen a member of the Board of Councilmen in 1899, and his service in that capacity has been as full of honor to himself as advantage to his city.

R. H. SUTTLE.

It is a striking characteristic of Meridian's growth and development that the strength of its citizenry has been constantly recruited and reinforced from the farm; and many of the leaders in commercial, industrial and professional pursuits have come from that nursery of strength and virility to occupy conspicuous places in the forefront of city building.

Notable among these useful citizens is Mr. R. H. Suttle, who is now serving his second term as a member of the city council.

Born upon his father's farm, in Winston county, in 1859, young Robert Suttle's early years were spent, as are those of thousands of other boys similarly situated,



R. H. SUTTLE,
Councilman, Ward Two.

in the varied, if arduous, work of the farmer; interrupted only for brief periods of each year to attend the irregular and uncertain neighborhood school. In 1880 he came to Meridian and found employment, first with Mike Kahn, but shortly afterwards entered the employ of Broach Bros.

By diligence and application to business, joined with a genial disposition, he rapidly rose in the esteem and confidence of the community, and when he embarked in business on his own account, he enjoyed the advantage of that inexhaustible capital—a good reputatation, backed by a sound character; and upon this has built the leading retail grocery business of Meridian.

Mr. Suttle was married in 1890 to Miss Nora O'Rouke, and is the happy father of four children. He was elected to the city council in 1901 and re-elected in 1903. Since his incumbency of this office he has brought to the service of the city a broad intelligence, practical business knowledge and a genuine zeal for the public welfare which has been most conspicuously manifested where the educational interests of the city are concerned, and no cause could be more worthy of the zealous endeavor and loyal support of the municipal legislature.

M. W. WAGNER.

Economists everywhere recognize that, in municipal government, no quality is more important and valuable than a thorough business training and capacity in the equipment of the membership of city boards; and it is this splendid qualification that makes Mr. M. W. Wagner a valued and useful member of the Board of Councilmen of Meridian.

Mr. Wagner was born in 1859 in Upson county, Georgia, but was reared and educated in Pike county. He first came to the city in 1877, remained three years, returned to Georgia in 1880 and came to take up his permanent residence here in 1889, when he became associated in business with his uncle, Capt. A. B. Wag-

M. W. WAGNER,
Councilman, Ward Three.

ner, one of the oldest and most honored citizens of the city.

Mr. Wagner's business capacity and strict integrity soon won the confidence and esteem of the people of his adopted home, and in 1901 he was elected a member of the Board of Councilmen and re-elected again in 1903, beginning his second term in January of the present year. During his incumbency of this office, Mr. Wagner has evcined the same care, intelligence and business sagacity in the service of the municipality, that have characterized the conduct of his private affairs, and marked him one of the successful business men of the community. He has always been an active and zealous member of the municipal legislature, giving his time and best thought to the public service without stint, solicitous for the public welfare and the strong friend and advocate of every public improvement consistent with the city's financial ability.

As a member of the special Water Committee, Mr. Wagner has been the zealous champion of a betterment of this all important public service, which has so largely engaged the attention of the people and the city boards during the past three years.

S. D. PARKER.

In Mr. Stephen D. Parker the people of South Side have an able, zealous and conscientious

S. D. PARKER,
Councilman, Ward Four.

representative of the Board of Councilmen and the city the advantage of an upright and intelligent law-maker.

Mr. Parker was born in Lauderdale county, near Lockhart, in 1858. His early years were spent upon the farm and his education was derived from the country schools of his neighborhood. When 17 years of age he began his career as a railroad man and continued in that service for 27 years.

Sixteen years ago he took up his residence in Meridian and became immediately identified with the interests of his new home, lending his aid and encouragement to every onward movement in the social and material economy of the city.

Upon retiring from the railroad service, Mr. Parker engaged in the mercantile business, and later in that of brick manufacturing, both of which he successfully conducts today. His high character as a citizen, his intelligence and fidelity to trust won an eminent recognition, several years ago, in his selection as a member of the board of Police Commissioners, one of the most distinguished honors within the city's gift.

In 1903, Mr. Parker was chosen a member of the Board of Councilmen, and, although a new member, his good sense and loyalty to duty lend weight to his views upon every question relating to the public welfare that engages the attention of the municipal boards. Genuinely solicitous for Meridian's progress and prosperity, in his private life, as well as his public service, he has won and keeps the unqualified respect and confidence of this community.

I. F. ETHRIDGE.

Among the staunch and substantial citizens of Meridian who, by their own efforts, have won an honorable place in the respect and esteem of their fellow citizens, none is more widely known or trusted than Mr. Frank Ethridge.

Born in Kemper county, when a child, his father removed to Lauderdale county, where he spent his early years, until the outbreak of war, when, although but a boy, in 1862, he enlisted in Co. K, 13th Mississippi regiment, and gave his youthful strength and enthusiasm to the cause of the South.

In 1867 Mr. Ethridge came to Meridian, and soon launched into the business of builder and contractor, which he pursued for many years, his conscientious

I. F. ETHRIDGE,
Councilman, Ward Five.

meeting of contracts, his fidelity and uprightness yielding him an enviable reputation in his line and commanding a constantly increasing line of work.

He was, a few years ago, elected Street Commissioner by the municipal boards, and his discharge of the duties of this office was notable for its thoroughness and the good results obtained; but the demands of his increasing business compelled him to resign this place and give his whole time to his private affairs.

Chosen Councilman from his ward, he has proved a valuable member of the municipal government; broad-minded and progressive, he is, at the same time, a thorough business man, and determined that adequate value shall be returned for every dollar of public money expended; his views on every matter, therefore, carry weight with his fellow members, and the city, generally, reaps the advantage of his good judgment and zealous service.

R. A. FEWELL.

Among the citizens of Meridian who occupy a high place in the confidence, good will and high regard of their fellow citizens, Mr. R. A. Fewell, City Tax Assessor, is conspicuous. Born in Fairfax county, Virginia, Mr. Fewell's earlier years were spent

upon the farm. Coming to Meridian in August, 1870, he secured a position with H. C. Fallon & Co., dealers in hardware, but he soon abandoned this employment for a more congenial one with the Alabama and Chattanooga railroad, now the A. G. S., remaining with that road until 1882, when he went to the N. O. & N. E., the construction of which had then just begun, in the responsible office of assistant paymaster, traveling from Meridian to New Orleans, in a buggy, once every month in the discharge of his duties. This road being completed, Mr. Fewell was transferred to the V. S. & P. R. R., then being built from Monroe to Shreveport, La., where he was made paymaster of the construction forces, making his trips, monthly, along the line on horseback until the work was completed in 1884, when he retired from the employment, was married, and purchasing an interest in the only ice plant then here, came to reside in Meridian.

In 1890 Mr. Fewell suffered a great misfortune in the loss of his wife, and soon after, went to Lynn, Mass., where he entered the works of the Thomson Houston Electric Co.; remaining there three months, he returned to Meridian to assume the management

R. A. FEWELL,
Tax Collector City of Meridian.

of the electric light plant in this city, which he successfully conducted until it was leased, in 1896, to the Street Railway Company. Soon thereafter Mr. Fewell was elected City Tax Assessor, and so efficiently has he discharged the duties of this difficult and responsible office that he has been repeatedly re-elected to it by the municipal boards, who have valued his intelligent and faithful service in the discharge of a difficult public duty.

W. S. HARRIS.

Mr. W. S. Harris moved into the house that he now occupies, in Meridian, in 1868, and each year of that long residence has strengthened the ties which bind

W. S. HARRIS,
Treasurer City of Meridian.

him to this city and her people. He has grown with Meridian's growth until he could scarcely claim an identity separate from hers, and no man in the town is better loved.

Born in Brandon, Rankin county, Mr. Harris' early life was that of the country boy, until the alarums of war filled the land, when he joined the Vicksburg Volunteers and went to the scene of the fiercest conflict in Virginia. Wounded at Gaines' mill, he came home on a furlough; after encountering numberless difficulties, he succeeded in returning to his command in Virginia; his serious wound incapaciting him for active field service, he was transferred to the quartermasters department, and through the influence of his uncle, Hon. Wiley P. Harris, a member of the Confederate Congress, was assigned to duty in Mississippi, where he served in the most responsible positions until paroled at Meridian, May 13, 1865. In 1867 Mr. Harris accepted the position of paymaster with the Vicksburg and Meridian railroad, and in 1868 began service with the same company as passenger conductor, which post he filled until 1880, when he resigned to enter into business in this city with his brother, the late R. E. Harris.

Six years ago Mr. Harris was elected City Treasurer, which office he now holds, but to which, under the provisions of the law, is inelligible, as his own successor. He is, therefore, announced as a candidate for Mayor, and counts a host of warm friends who will do their utmost to gratify his honorable ambition in this regard.

Upright, brave and generous, W. S. Harris is a high type of citizen whom those who know him unreservedly love and trust.

CHIEF W. M. BLUDWORTH.

There is no municipal office, the incumbent of which rests under a fiercer light than that which beats upon the City Marshal or Chief of Police, and when that light reveals a spotless record and efficient discharge of every duty, the incumbent is entitled to the unreserved commendation of the people whom he has

W. M. BLUDWORTH,
Chief of Police City of Meridian.

so well and faithfully served; and this may be said of Meridian's present Chief, W. M. Bludworth.

Born in Barbour county, Ala., Mr. Bludworth removed to Lauderdale with his parents when

but a child, in 1867; his early years were spent upon a farm, and he received such education as the country schools afforded. In 1886 he came to Meridian, and went upon the police force, where he served with credit for eight years, when he resigned his position to enter the railroad service where he was early promoted to the place of conductor, which he filled for nearly five years. Returning to the police force, after a brief service, he was, in 1900, elected to the office of City Marshal, and re-elected in 1902.

Mr. Bludworth is a candidate for re-election at the approaching primary, basing his claim to the consideration of his fellow citizens upon the record that he has made, in the discharge of a difficult public duty. That record speaks for itself; not only is the law enforced, life and property safeguarded and the public peace secured, but the best of discipline prevails throughout the police service, due to the chief's administrative ability.

Apart from being an ideal public officer, Mr. Bludworth enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him, in private relations, as a good neighbor and citizen.

CAPT. B. V. WHITE.

Among the men of Meridian who, by right living and right thinking, joined with native strength of character, have won a foremost place in the regard and confidence of their fellows, conspicuous stands Capt. B. V. White, the popular Chancery Clerk of Lauderdale county.

Capt. White was born near Dayton, Alabama; attended the country schools of that period, and at the age of 16, shouldered his gun to follow the stars and bars through all the vicissitudes of war, encountered by the army of Tennessee, until the end of hostilities in 1865.

In the year that marked the close of the war, Capt. White came to Meridian, and was first engaged in the hotel business. He subsequently filled various responsible positions as book keeper and accountant. In 1880, he was elected City Treasurer and repeatedly re-elected until 1889. In the meantime he was deputy chancery clerk from 1884 to 1886, when he engaged in the insurance business. In 1891 Capt. White was elected Chancery Clerk and has been three times re-elected to the same responsible office, since that time.

CAPT. B. V. WHITE,
Chancery Clerk Lauderdale County.

Faithful to every public and private duty, possessed of an attractive personality and courteous demeanor, Capt. White has achieved honors in every relation where such were in the bestowment of his fellows. He was chosen a few years ago, Major General of the Mississippi Division U. C. V., and always takes a leading part in these patriotic councils. As a Mason, he is a member of the Blue Lodge Chapter, Council Commandery, Scottish Rites and Shrine; was elected Grand Master of Masons of Mississippi in 1900, and is today Registrar of the Mississippi Consistory Scottish Rites. A Knight of Pythias, he has been in like manner honored; being chosen Grand Chancellor in 1882 and Supreme Representative in 1884 and 1886.

In every private relation, Capt. White fulfils the ideal of good citizenship; and the esteem in which he is held is abundantly testified in his repeated re election to an office of the highest trust and responsibility within the gift of his fellow citizens.

PROF. J. R. ELLIS.

There is no cause in Mississippi, today, more worthy of the enlistment of the best talents and loyal service of her sons than that of primary education; because, first and last, the school house is the corner stone of Republican government. Lauderdale county is fortunate in this respect; she has always enjoyed the advantage of capable and zealous service in

the administration of her public schools; but never have the educational interests of the county been in more faithful and competent keeping than during the administration of Mr. J R. Ellis.

PROF. J. R. ELLIS,
County Superintendent Public Education.

Mr. Ellis was born upon a farm in the southeastern part of Lauderdale county, and received his early education at the country schools; he entered the A. & M. College in 1888, remaining there two sessions. In 1890, he began his career as teacher, which he continued until 1895, when he went to the University of Nashville and Peabody Normal, from which institutions he was graduated in 1898. Returning to Lauderdale, he resumed teaching until the following year, when he was elected County Superintendent of public schools, and was re-elected without opposition in 1903.

Mr. Ellis has brought to the service of a great cause, fine natural talents, cultivated and nourished in the best schools, a genuine enthusiasm for his work and a strength of character that makes effective his endeavors Under his administration, and, largely through his personal effort, the public school term has been extended from four to six months, and the general efficiency of the schools has been improved.

I. R. McELROY.

Few men, anywhere, count stauncher friends or a greater number among their acquaintances than does Mr. I. R. McElroy, City Clerk of Meridian; because few men more eminently deserve them than he. Generous, warm hearted, upright and loyal, he attracts the good will and confidence of his fellows and, then, strives to keep these by deserving them.

Born in this county, near Alamutcha, in 1864, Mr. McElroy was reared upon the farm and attended the country schools. At the age of twenty years, he came to Meridian to accept the position of deputy in the office of the circuit clerk, which place he filled until he entered the railway mail service. In 1887 he was elected City Clerk, and re-elected to the same office in 1889 and again, in 1891. In 1893 he was appointed, by President Cleveland, postmaster of Meridian, where he remained for four years. Retiring from the post-office, in 1897, he followed his vocation as bookkeeper and accountant until chosen City Tax Assessor in 1900. In 1902, he was again elected to the office of City Clerk, which position he now fills so satisfactorily that he is without opposition in his candidature for re-election.

Mr. McElroy has always been a zealous, loyal and active Democrat, and in recognition of this service, he was chosen a member of the State Executive Committee at the last State convention.

Faithful in the discharge of his public duties, warm hearted and unselfish in his relations with his fellow men, a good citizen and upright gentleman, Mr. McElroy justly enjoys the unqualified esteem and confidence of the people of Meridian.

I. R. McELROY, City Clerk.

B. McDADE.

The career of Mr. B. McDade, the efficient tax collector of the city of Meridian, is a striking illustration of the possibilities of

B. McDADE,
City Tax Collector.

achievement that are here afforded to young men, where a determination to succeed is supplemented by a kindly disposition, uprightness and persevering industry.

Mr. McDade was born at Mt. Meigs, Montgomery county, Ala., in 1865. When he was a child, his parents removed to Kemper county, Mississippi, where his early years were spent upon the farm, and he enjoyed such educational opportunities as the country schools at that time afforded. Arrived at the age of 18 years he learnnd telegraphy, and in that capacity entered the railway service; in 1889 he was advanced to the clerical department in the offices in Meridian. In 1894 he embarked in the furniture business, in which he continued until elected City Tax Collector in 1898, to which office he was re-elected in 1900 and now holds.

In 1903 Mr. McDade was a candidate for Chancery Clerk and received a vote that was highly flattering.

In 1889, Mr. McDade was married to Miss Ada Walker, of Lauderdale, who, with two children, graces his happy home in this city. A Mason, and member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, A. O. U. W., Elks, Woodmen of the World and Maccabees, Mr. McDade is prominent and influential in fraternal work.

CHIEF JNO. R. FARRELL,
Of the Fire Department.

No one among the citizenship of Meridian is held in higher esteem or more beloved, than the genial, good natured chief. A natural born fireman, he has used all his skill, coupled with his experience, to keep always the Fire Department up to a high standard of efficiency, and Meridian's present admirable service is, in a great measure, due to his zeal, energy and unceasing labor, in which, at all times, he has had the co-operation of the city government; not the least tangible result from which is the liberal insurance rates prevailing here, Meridian being on a first class basis.

Mr. Farrell was born and reared in the city of Mobile, and educated at St. Vincent's Academy, coming to Meridian in November, 1879, to accept a position with Messrs. Gary & Son, then large cotton buyers. At time of leaving Mobile, was a member of Mechanics Steam Fire Company No. 7. Still imbued with the fireman spirit, with others, in June, 1882, he was greatly instrumental in reorganizing what then constituted Meridian's Fire Department. A steamer was soon purchased, hose, etc., and from then, on, the Department commenced to grow, other companies being organized. As the city grew on, like other places, the need for a paid department became apparent, and was accomplished Jan. 1st, 1903; though too much cannot be said of the valuable service of the original volunteer department.

Mr. Farrell's best reward for his zealous usefulness is the universal appreciation that his work commands.

F. M. ZEHLER, a Martyr to Duty

F. M. Zehler lost his life in the performance of duty, as Assistant Chief of the Meridian Fire Department, at the fire in the Ormond building, on Twenty-second Avenue, in 1901. In recognition of his courage and fidelity, as well as his eminent virtues as a man and a citizen, the people of Meridian have erected a handsome monument to his memory at 4th street and 23rd ave. To the unselfish efforts of Chief Jno. R. Farrell is largely due this popular tribute to bravery.

WETHERBEE BROS. COMPANY.

In the Wetherbee Bros. Company Meridian owns the largest manufactory and depot of machinery and mill supplies in the State, and one of the most extensive in the South. The foundry and machine shops manufacture every description of machinery and iron work, while in the warehouses of the Company, may be found everything in the way of mill supplies, from a complete equipment of a large mill, down to the smallest parts of machinery that may be required.

The territory covered by the trade of this extensive business embraces all of this and adjacent States, extending west into Texas and the Indian Territory.

The firm of Wetherbee Bros., composed of Messrs. C. P. and W. C. Wetherbee, is valued in the commercial and industrial economy of the city; but not more so than are the individual members who compose it, in the social and civil relation. Both are big men, in heart and brain, as well as body; are good citizens in the best sense; progressive, broad minded and public spirited; ready at all times to lend their moral and material support to every movement for the advancement of Meridian, and in their social relations command the unqualified confidence, respect and good will of the community.

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